Domenech: Next round of federal funding is coming. PAGE 3
Torres: Democrats' inaction on COVID-19 relief disappointing. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

Volume XXX, Issue No. 193

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

www.saipantribune.com TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 www.facebook.com/saipantribune

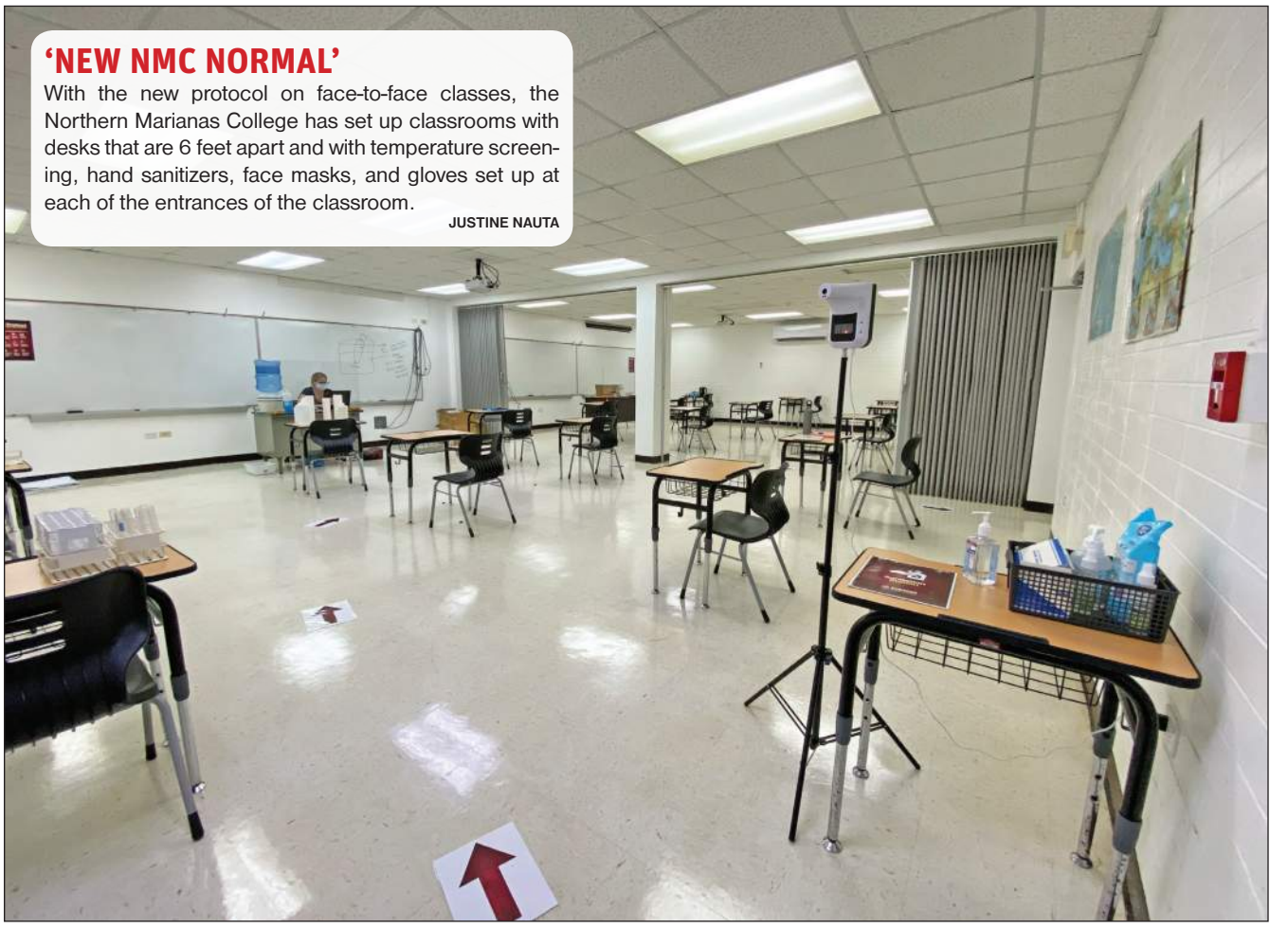
Rep. Propst resigns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saying that he has reached his limits due to an extremely stressful job, the attacks on his name, and cyber bullying, House minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) stepped down from his job yesterday, with his last official day as a House representative this Thursday.

In his resignation letter, which he submitted to House Speaker Blas Jonathan T.

See PROPST on Page 4



'NEW NMC NORMAL'
With the new protocol on face-to-face classes, the Northern Marianas College has set up classrooms with desks that are 6 feet apart and with temperature screening, hand sanitizers, face masks, and gloves set up at each of the entrances of the classroom.
JUSTINE NAUTA

Settlement Fund now has $135.35M balance

» 'Resolution contains factual misrepresentations, false and misleading statements, harmful to retirees'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guerrero

Tang

The NMI Settlement Fund under the leadership of its Trustee, Joyce C. H. Tang, currently has a balance of $135.35 million, which is enough to cover more than two years of pension payments, according to Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan.

"This amount is more than what the Settlement Fund started with…in 2013," said Pangelinan in highlighting Tang's contributions to the Settlement Fund

RELATED NEWS
➤ Settlement Fund responds to HR 21-37. PAGE 8

See FUND on Page 4

NAP income eligibility hits all-time low

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The income eligibility standards of the CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program or NAP has hit an all-time low—the lowest it's ever been for years—which would make hundreds of CNMI residents ineligible for assistance.

According to NAP administrator Walter Macaranas, they were forced to reduce income eligibility standards and maximum benefits by a whopping 25% because the available funds for the NAP benefit program has gone down significantly this fiscal year.

With the reduction, NAP looks at providing benefits

See NAP on Page 4

Hofschneider to lead Senate team in conference committee

Hocog

Hofschneider

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) appointed Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) yesterday to lead the Senate team on the conference committee, which has the enormous task of resolving by tomorrow, Wednesday, disagreements in the government's budget bill for fiscal year 2021 to avoid a partial government shutdown.

Hocog also appointed Sen.

See SENATE on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
United Airlines becomes the first U.S. airline to launch a COVID-19 testing for travelers.
PAGE 11

NATION
President Donald Trump paid just $750 in federal income taxes the year he ran for president.
PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
A new statue of the late pope St. John Paul II has provoked debate in his native Poland.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

FOMTM launches ANA-funded program: Project HOPE

The Friends of the Marianas Trench Monument is excited to finally get to engage with selected Public School System middle schools through an ocean science program for CNMI sixth graders called Project HOPE (Healthy Ocean & People Empowerment).

This program, funded by a grant from the Administration of Native Americans and made available through a partnership with PSS, is inspired by the desire to improve CNMI 6th graders' ACT Aspire test scores. Project HOPE uses experiential learning to increase students' understanding of experimental results, inferences, evaluation of models and analyzing data. Our weekly ocean science learning sessions also combine traditional cultural methods and STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) principles to promote ocean conservation stewardship. Local elders with a lifetime of ocean expertise will participate in ocean science activities right along with CNMI 6th graders.

"The goal of Project HOPE is to make a crucial and complex subject like ocean conservation more accessible to our students," said FOMTM executive director and Project HOPE director Laurie Peterka. "We believe that by creating fun, hands-on ocean science activities and incorporating local community members from multiple generations, we can help our students envision themselves as the CNMI's next wave of ocean protectors."

Project HOPE conservation teams consist of Ocean Elders, college students, and 6th graders. FOMTM is pleased and grateful to acknowledge our inaugural year's ocean elders, Antonio U. Piailug, Cecilia K. Selepeo, Edson Limes, Joseph A. Omar, Frances Sablan, and Diego and Vicky Benavente. In support of our ocean elders, Project HOPE sessions will be facilitated by NMC Environment & Natural Resource Organization students Dhalian Alvarez Salas, Catherine Tanseco Calma, Eloise Lopez, Anela Duenas, Richelle Ramon, Wileen Mongami, and Mathew Richardson.

Project HOPE will consist of approximately 12 weeks of activities, with teams meeting twice per week. FOMT's Outreach Specialists team will engage in two-hour sessions every Friday at our three participating schools (Tanapag Middle School, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, and Dandan Middle School), followed by a three-hour session every Saturday at the Guma Sakman in Susupe. Teams will also participate in a stewardship project of their own creation, which will span the duration of the program. Project HOPE will conclude with a five-day ocean camp held from Dec. 26 to 30 in coordination with Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance and 500 Sails.

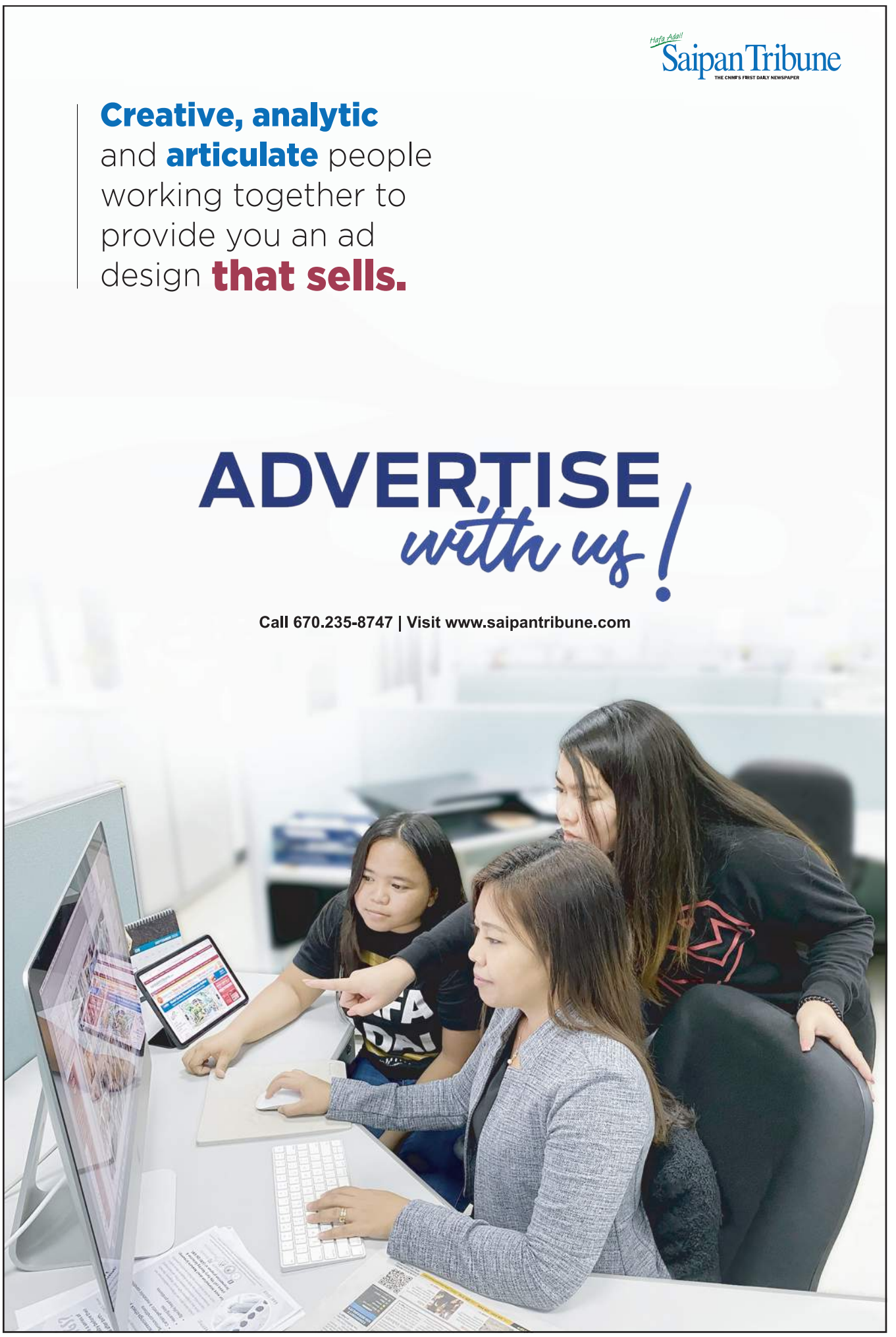
FOMT has structured all its small group meetings as well as the ocean camp with appropriate social distancing protocols in place to protect all participants' health as much as possible. Our COVID-19 protocols are based on guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Public Health, and PSS.

"We're grateful to our partners at CHCC and PSS for helping us design our activities so that they're aligned with islandwide COVID-19 protocols," said FOMTM assistant project coordinator Jessielynne Quitano. "It takes cooperation across our community to allow these programs to continue while preserving the safety of our students and their families."

Because the global outbreak of COVID-19 prevented FOMTM from initiating the program in spring 2020 as planned, our fall 2020 program will be for 7th grade students (spring semesters 6th graders) and our spring 2021 program will be for school year 2020-21 6th grade students.

"I want to thank PSS principals for working diligently alongside FOMTM to ensure that students and parents can easily register for Project HOPE," said project coordinator Joseph Villacrusis. "Anyone interested in registering can contact FOMTM or find the appropriate information and forms on the FOMTM website."

There is no cost for student participation. Registration is open through Oct. 4. You can obtain information from your school's principal or contact Joe Villacrusis at (670) 483 - FOMTM (3668). Orientation will be held on Oct. 9 and 10 and is mandatory for all participants. For more information, you may also visit our website at friendsmarianatrench.org or email us at info@friendsmarianatrench.org. ***(PR)***


Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Creative, analytic and articulate people working together to provide you an ad design that sells.
ADVERTISE with us!
Call 670.235-8747 | Visit www.saipantribune.com

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars every Thursday in October. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ Oct. 1 – Teaming & Joint Ventures – What are they and which is right for your business? The Guam PTAC will discuss the Federal regulations related to these arrangements and discuss ways to use these arrangements effectively.

■ Oct. 8 – All Small Mentor-Protégé Program – Small businesses can team up with large businesses and go after contracts normally set-aside for small businesses only. The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements and how to apply for this SBA program.

■ Oct. 15 – Marketing to the Federal Government – The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on "the list".

■ Oct. 22 – FAR Clauses Explained – Confused by all the FAR clauses referenced in government solicitations? The Guam PTAC will demystify these Federal Acquisition Regulations. Join us as we explain many of the common FAR clauses found in Federal solicitations.

■ Oct. 29 – Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment – Do you have a DOD contract and need to get paid? The Guam PTAC will explain DOD invoicing procedures using the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system.

Register at http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

Domenech: Next round of federal funding is coming

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In two months, the U.S. Department of the Interior will start asking the CNMI and other territories to submit applications for the next round of federal funding, according to Doug Domenech, the U.S. Department of the Interior's assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

During a radio briefing last Friday, Domenech, who appeared in a Zoom meeting from Washington, D.C., said they will pretty much divide the federal money among the islands.

"No, it's not really completely equal but it depends on what the needs are," he said.

Domenech said they are trying very hard to work not only the normal funding that they do on brown tree snakes, but also on things like invasive species.

He said the rhinoceros beetle outbreak on Rota is a very serious thing that they're trying to work on right now.

"And I know we have more funding going in that direction. Other than that, I'm not sure I can say specific projects," Domenech said.

With respect to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, Domenech said they're trying to get funding out from a lot of federal agencies. He said President Donald J. Trump activated 40-some agencies and Congress passed funding.

"So all those agencies are providing the funding to the different islands," said Domenech, adding that his office got about $55 million in CARES Act funds. He said they allocated that funding out to all the islands, including the CNMI. He said they gave the CNMI over $4 million of that funding.

Domenech

Domenech said they work closely with the government and particularly Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in looking at the Commonwealth's priorities on the best way to spend that money. "We were very busy doing that even if we're teleworking from home. And we hope that we can be helpful and you've been helpful to us. So it's a two-way street," he said.

Domenech said they're coming to the end of the fiscal year for the federal government. "So we're just at the tail end of giving out all of our grant money," he said.

Domenech said the funding that Congress gave them was specifically allocated for preparing for and dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. He said when they got the funding, they asked each territory to come up with a pandemic plan. He said CNMI did that, figuring out how they wanted to allocate the money and so they gave them the portion of the funding. "And then they draw down based on how they want to spend it," he said, adding that they gave a grant to the CNMI very early on for the purchase of personal protective equipment, masks, gloves, ventilators for the hospital and for front line workers.

"We actually have more available if it's needed. That $4 million has not been spent down yet, but I'm sure it will eventually," he said.

Over the last couple of years, Domenech has been in the CNMI four times. "And it's a great joy every time I came either to visit with the governor, or to travel up and then to all three of the major islands," he said.

Domenech said he'd been to Pagan, but of all the insular areas that they deal with, his favorite is Rota.

The Office of Insular Affairs works with the four U.S. territories in the Pacific—American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and CNMI—and three Freely Associated States: Palau, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. Of these seven insular areas that they deal with, four of them actually have no cases and so no fatalities and that they're very grateful for that, Domenech said.

"And we're up to about 3,600 cases across the three territories and 59 fatalities," he said.

Want to become an airplane pilot?

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Are you interested in getting your Private Pilot License but anxious about flying a small plane? Let pilot trainee Angel Concepcion Lagunay and Star Marianas Air pilot Brandy Buzza share with you some of the perks of having your PPL.

According to Buzza, PPL will allow you to fly in the sky with your friends and family for a family-style jaunt but you cannot be paid, nor can you fly commercial passengers. The great thing is that, SMA will be able to assist trainees in getting their PPL and, if you want to take it to the next level, SMA will even help you get your instrument rating license, and commercial license.

SMA pilots are doing all these on their own free time. Buzza says that, as of now, there's no official name for the program, that it's just a bunch of people who love and want to teach and want to reach out to as many people as they can to get them started on an aviation career.

"We're lucky enough to have the support of our management to do this on our off days and take it on," said Buzza.

That's where Lagumay comes in, who is now working with Buzza on getting her PPL. Being one of the first students that SMA will be helping in securing her PPL, first-time students will have Lagunay as a mentor if they are anxious or worried about their first time flying, Buzza said.

According to her, people with more time on their hands can get their PPL in as little as two months. For others, it can be as long as six months. On average, people get it done in four to five months.

It's not only the months that count, but you have to commit to 35 hours in order to be eligible for the PPL, according to the Federal Aviation Administration guidelines. Additionally, you have to be 17 years old or older to get your PPL.

When asked what makes a good pilot, Buzza says that it's anyone who puts safety before anything else. "There's a lot of hazards in aviation and just putting safety first and being careful with details is the most important thing," she said.

One thing to keep in mind is that air traffic language is like learning another language. Buzza says that there are many recordings online that can help anyone understand the "language," and with a lot of practice you will begin to understand the meaning behind everything.

For anyone interested in getting into aviation, Buzza said they should do their research, look into all the steps that it takes, and if you need more answers, she will be available to help you. She loves to teach, and so does the other pilots.

"Give it a try. You won't know your fear or your ability to take that next step unless you try it out, and once you get the feeling [that] it's going to be part of your career, then go for it continue and finish it up. It's a good career to have," said Donna Cabrera, SMA general manager.

Lagumay also has comforting words for her peers who may be interested in flying. "Be confident in yourself. I'm always here since I'm the first student and they can always talk to me. I'm very open to new people. [You] don't have to be scared with anything because [SMA pilots] are great instructors, and I'm sure they won't let you down," said Lagunay.

For those who are interested, you Buzza at brandyjobuzza@gmail.com or SMA at hrd@starmarianasair.com or call (670)433-9997.

JUSTINE NAUTA

Star Marianas Air pilot Brandy Buzza, left, shows pilot trainee Angel Concepcion Lagunay how to do a preflight check at the Tinian International Airport last Sept. 26.

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9 a.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2020, in the conference room at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
III. Public Comment
IV. Adoption of Agenda
V. Adoption of Minutes
VI. Old Business
  A. Amendments to Casino License Agreement (#8)
    1. Live Training Facility
    2. Local Hiring Requirements
VII. New Business
  A. Amendments to Casino License Agreement (#9)
    1. Exclusive License
    2. Casino License Fees ($15.5M) Payment Plan
    3. Defer 2020 Community Benefit Fund
    4. Commonwealth Casino Commission (CCC) Authority over Hotel Construction and Operations vs. Gaming Operations
    5. P.L. 20-85 – Casino Bad Debt Collection
    6. Force Majeure triggers for License Fees in the future
    7. CCC Regulatory Fees – request for reduced amount.
    8. Online Gaming
VIII. Executive Session
IX. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

Daniel T. Guidotti
Bridge Capital Building
Micro Beach Road, Garapan
PMB 29 Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 322-2222 | Fax: (670) 322-2323
Email: dtguidott@bccnmi.com

Attorney for Plaintiff
Bridge Capital, LLC

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC, Plaintiff, v.	Civil Case No. 20-0104
SYLVAN O. IGISOMAR, Defendant.	NOTICE OF SALE

Plaintiff Bridge Capital, LLC (**"Bridge"**) hereby gives notice that, in order to satisfy sums due pursuant to the stipulated judgment entered June 12, 2020 in favor of Bridge, and pursuant to the Court Order dated September 8, 2020 authorizing a foreclosure sale (the **"Sale Order"**), the auctioneer designated in the Sale Order will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.,** the following parcel of real property:

Lot 1944NEW-1-R2, situated at Chalan Laulau, Saipan, containing an area of 22,589 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat no. 2031/10, the original of which was recorded May 26, 2010 under File No. 10-888 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan (the **"Property"**).

PARTIAL TERMS OF SALE

1. **Auction Location.** The auction will be held in the first floor conference room of the Bridge Capital building located at Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.
2. **Auction Procedure.** The auctioneer designated by the Court will conduct an auction via competitive bidding. The bidding will remain open until the auctioneer declares that the bidding is closed. If a dispute arises between bidders, the auctioneer shall make the final decision either to determine the successful bidder or to resell the Property.
3. **Auctioneer's Rights.** The auctioneer may do any of the following: (1) withdraw the Property from sale at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; (2) adjourn the auction without notice, at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; (3) reject any bid, for any reason; or (4) expel a bidder from the auction location.
4. **Bids.** Bidders may submit bids in advance for the Property. These bids will not be binding. The highest advance bid will become the opening bid for the Property on the day of the auction. During the bidding, bidders may make bids in person or by telephone.
5. **Deposit.** The successful bidder shall provide to Bridge an earnest money deposit, by check, cashier's check, or money order, equal to 10.00% of the winning bid amount (the "Deposit"). Bridge will apply the Deposit toward the amount of the winning bid. If the winning bidder fails to deliver the Deposit to Bridge before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the auction, the winning bidder's bid will be deemed to be automatically rejected, without further notice to the winning bidder. A bidder who bids by telephone shall comply with the deposit requirement.
6. **Sale Terms.** The winning bidder shall pay the full amount of the winning bid to Seller, by check, cashier's check, or money order, no later than 10 business days after winning the auction. The closing will occur at Seller's office at Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The sale will be closed by Daniel T. Guidotti, Seller's attorney. The winning bidder may request that the closing proceed through escrow, subject to the winning bidder paying 100% of all escrow fees.
7. **Property Sold "AS-IS WHERE IS."** The Property is being sold in "AS IS WHERE IS" condition. Bridge and the auctioneer make no representations, express or implied, with respect to the Property regarding title, area, location, suitability of the Property for any particular purpose, the existence or condition of any improvements situated on the leased Property, or the existence or non-existence of any conditions that might affect development of the Property (such as zoning, hazardous waste, historical preservation issues, threatened or endangered species, and wetlands).
8. **Changes to Auction Terms.** Either Bridge or the auctioneer may change or add to these terms or any additional terms prior to or at the auction. An oral announcement made at the auction will supersede anything in writing, including these terms. All changes made in this manner will be binding on the winning bidder.
9. **Additional Terms.** Additional terms apply. Interested bidders may obtain these additional terms from the attorney for Bridge, Attorney Daniel T. Guidotti. Bidders may request this information by telephone at (670) 322-2222 or via email at dtguidotti@bccnmi.com. All bidders are responsible for knowing these additional terms prior to bidding on the Property.

/s/
Bartley A. Jackson
Auctioneer

NAP

From Page 1

to a maximum of just 4,500 households across the CNMI, compared to the 5,300 when NAP beneficiaries peaked back in August.

"The income eligibility standards and the maximum benefit allotments will be reduced by 25% from the current level. This is where we're going to be on Oct. 1 and this is going to be [effective] until April 1. This is the lowest ever in the past 10 years," he said.

Macaranas said that as NAP's funding starts to decline, they had to plan to reduce the income standards so that they could stay within the funding level or funding availability. Their reduction was based on their assessment of how many eligible families there were in June and who would remain eligible if their income stayed the same.

Macaranas explained that the amount of money granted to NAP yearly is merely $12 million but because of leftover funds carried over from the Enhance Nutrition Assistance (ENAP) back in 2016 and the Disaster Nutrition Assistance Program back in 2018, the reduction in income eligibility was pushed back a few years.

Now, however, Macaranas said that, although it's unfortunate timing since there's an ongoing pandemic, they have no choice but to push forward with the reduction. This is because the leftover funding from ENAP and DNAP nets just a little over $10 million reducing NAP funding to a little over $22 million. This is nearly half of the $30 million in the last few fiscal years.

For households who are currently certified beyond September, once October hits and their income is above the new standards, they will automatically receive a letter terminating their benefits. Households that remain eligible will also receive letters of reduction in their monthly benefits.

According to a mother of three who works as a cashier, and a husband who works part-time as a result of the pandemic, NAP meant a great deal for their family.

"With the ongoing crisis, I counted on NAP to feed my family because we have other bills to pay. Our salaries combined is not enough," she said.

She said she no longer knows how she will budget the little amount of money they make. "This is sad news during a sad time. I hope we receive additional funding soon. I know a lot of people like me who will be hit hard by this reduction," she said.

For a family of five, the income eligibility was reduced from $2,515 to $1.886. This is gross income.

Income Eligibility Standards

Household Size	FY 2020 Level	Effective October 1, 2020	Effective April 1, 2021
1	$1,041	$781	$541
2	$1,410	$1,058	$672
3	$1,778	$1,334	$805
4	$2,146	$1,610	$933
5	$2,515	$1,886	$1,065
6	$2,883	$2,162	$1,197
7	$3,251	$2,438	$1,332
8	$3,620	$2,715	$1,458

Maximum Monthly Benefit Levels

Household Size	Saipan			Tinian			Rota and Northern Islands		
	FY 2020 Level	Effective October 1, 2020	Effective April 1, 2021	FY 2020 Level	Effective October 1, 2020	Effective April 1, 2021	FY 2020 Level	Effective October 1, 2020	Effective April 1, 2021
1	$283	$212	$154	$299	$224	$170	$344	$258	$215
2	$519	$389	$282	$546	$410	$311	$629	$472	$394
3	$743	$557	$404	$782	$587	$445	$901	$676	$564
4	$944	$708	$515	$998	$749	$568	$1,150	$863	$719
5	$1,121	$841	$609	$1,180	$885	$672	$1,360	$1,020	$851
6	$1,345	$1,009	$691	$1,417	$1,063	$763	$1,544	$1,158	$966
7	$1,487	$1,115	$810	$1,569	$1,177	$893	$1,808	$1,356	$1,131
8	$1,699	$1,274	$921	$1,785	$1,339	$1,016	$2,057	$1,543	$1,286

FUND

From Page 1

members or retirees.

In September 2013, the Settlement Fund's ending balance was $128.4 million.

Pangelinan discussed Tang's contributions in her letter to Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), who introduced last Tuesday a House resolution that opposes the pay raise of Guam-based Tang from $250 per hour to $350 an hour; it also calls for Tang to be replaced with a lawyer who lives in the CNMI.

In her letter last Thursday, Pangelinan said that Guerrero's resolution contains factual misrepresentations and statements that are false and misleading.

The House did not act on Guerrero's resolution.

Pangelinan said Tang has been persistently pushing the NMI government to prioritize payments to the Fund and has been working with CNMI leaders to secure a funding source and timely payments to the Fund to avoid drawing on the Fund's investments to be able to pay retirees.

As a result, Pangelinan said, fiscal year 2020 marked the first time that the Fund did not have to draw on its investments to make benefit payments.

In fiscal year 2014, the Fund's drawdown on its investment to make benefit payments amounted to $36 million.

In his resolution, Guerrero urged, among other things, the Settlement Fund to submit actuary and investment reports to the Legislature. Pangelinan pointed out that all the Fund reports that the lawmaker is seeking, including the actuary and investment reports, and independent audit reports and financial statements are all available on the Fund's website, which is updated regularly.

During Tuesday's House session, Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioner Mariano Taitano expressed support for the resolution and urged replacing Tang with a Saipan-based lawyer.

Guerrero's resolution states that, given the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not in the best interest of the CNMI to be giving increases to any official who is being paid using taxpayer dollars. Also, with Tang living in Guam, the lawmaker said this adds costs to the Settlement Fund to pay for her travel, room, board, and transportation. He said that, as a cost-saving measure, it would be appropriate to appoint a legal counsel who resides in the CNMI.

Pangelinan pointed out that Tang's pay rate was increased in December 2019, several months even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and was approved by U.S. District Court designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood. She said Tang did not request a rate increase during the pandemic.

Pangelinan said Tang has never represented that the increased hourly rate was justified solely on "the positive growth of the stock," nor has she ever taken "full credit" for the growth of stock. The administrator said the success of the Fund is due to many factors. Pangelinan said Tang and the Fund team have demonstrated single-minded determination in protecting the Fund by fighting to ensure that payments owed the Fund are made and by protecting money in the Fund from being diverted for other purposes. She said these combined efforts have ensured that retirees have been paid at least 75% of their benefits as required under the Betty Johnson class action's settlement agreement, and are important in expanding the life of the Fund.

Pangelinan said Tang is not a CNMI government official and that, as the court-appointed trustee, she reports exclusively to the District Court.

She said Tang's actions are overseen by Tydingco-Gatewood and that all payments made to her law firm are scrutinized by the judge.

Pangelinan said because payments owed to Tang's law firm are paid from funds belonging to the Fund, any payment made for her services do not impact the CNMI's budget.

She said the payments owed to Tang's law firm do not increase the CNMI government's payment obligations under the Johnson settlement agreement.

The administrator said that, as of this date, Tang's travel costs have been limited to airfare between Saipan and Guam. She said Tang's firm does not charge for food expenses incurred on Saipan, and that all of the trips in the past few years have been day trips and no hotel charges were incurred.

Pangelinan said all costs incurred by Tang's firm are reasonable and the reimbursement of such costs are subject to the court's review and approval.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PROPST

From Page 1

Attao, Propst said he decided to resign after a long discussion over the weekend with his wife, Daisy, their children, and some close family and friends.

The lawmaker said the attacks and cyber bullying seem to only worsen with each passing day. "It can break a person down emotionally, mentally, and physically. Everyone has their limits, and I feel I have reached mine," he said.

This comes 20 days after a private citizen asked that Propst be investigated for alleged sexual misconduct when he was still a teacher. Last Sept. 17, the Department of Public Safety confirmed that a complaint had been filed against Propst and that DPS is looking into the complaint. DPS spokesman Dre Pangelinan refused to talk about nature of the complaint and other specifics.

Propst said his last official day will be this Thursday so he can close out his office.

He thanked the people of Precinct 1 for giving him "the honor to serve" them over the course of his three terms as a representative. "I love you all and thank you for so kindly welcoming us into your homes and hearts," he said.

The lawmaker said he is forever indebted to his staff, Vince Camacho and Sal Limes, and the minority team, who have done "a magnificent job in serving our people."

"I am grateful for the strong friendships I have made with all of my colleagues in the House and Senate and their staff, and the hardworking, always dependable Legislative Bureau staff," he said.

Propst said he has had the greatest honor and privilege of serving Precinct 1 and the Commonwealth for the past six years. He said he has been fully invested and committed as a representative and public servant leader, often putting the needs of the public before the needs of his family and himself.

Propst said the work that they do in helping others, especially the families in need, has consistently been their main focus when it comes to legislation and community volunteerism.

"After every typhoon or disaster, my chief of staff Vince Camacho and our community workers and I committed ourselves to joining other volunteers in assisting families throughout our precinct and beyond," he said.

Aside from her letter to the OAG, private citizen Irene Holl had also asked Attao to conduct a formal ethics investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct against Propst while he was a teacher at the Marianas High School and at the Northern Marianas College. Holl also wrote the same letters to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

Propst's current term was supposed to end on Jan. 11, 2021. He first successfully ran as in independent candidate and was running for the upcoming Nov. 3 general election as a Democrat.

During his three terms as a representative, he served on the House committees on Education; Health; Commerce and Tourism; and Federal and Foreign Affairs.

Prior to joining the Legislature, Propst worked in education and owned a photography business.

SENATE

From Page 1

Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan) and Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) to join Hofschneider on the team. Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) was named an alternate member.

"I am confident that our Senate conferees will work out the differences with the House conferees on the [fiscal year] 2021 budget so that we can avoid the government shutdown," he said.

Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan), who will lead the House of Representatives team on the conference committee, said yesterday that the committee will meet today, Tuesday, at 1:30pm, most likely in the House chamber.

After the House rejected the Senate's version of the budget bill with an 18-2 vote during Sunday's special session, House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao immediately appointed Blanco, House floor leader John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), and Rep. Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan) to the conference committee. Attao said he will appoint another lawmaker as an alternate.

Blanco, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, said in an interview Sunday that, as soon as Hocog names the Senate members of the conference committee, they are going to sit down together.

The last time there was a conference committee was for the fiscal year 2019 budget.

Last Saturday, the Senate passed its version in the budget bill that proposes $96.47 million for fiscal year 2021. This is $13.81 million more than the $82.65 million that the House had approved.

Last July 1, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres submitted a revised revenue projection in the amount of $144.41 million. Of this amount, the governor approved $82.65 million for government appropriation.

Youth fishing group completes bottom fishing activity

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-two high school students completed a shallow bottom fishing activity last Sept. 26 as part of the Tasi to Table Inc.'s youth group, the Youth Fishing Club program.

The group sailed west of Saipan near Chalan Kanoa where they moved to a deeper area—"a little past the prepositioning ships," said Tasi to Table Inc. vice president Wayne Pangelinan, who added that Tasi to Table is now called Tasi to Table Inc. after being incorporated in July.

Pangelinan said the bottom fishing activity was scheduled earlier but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 restrictions and they were able to finally push through last Sept 26.

One of the students, Jay, who is a Kagman High School junior, says that the fishing activity taught him the importance of patience with fishing. The best part about the club is getting to know how to tie the fishing line with the hooks, he added.

During their first fishing practice last March, they got to test their rods and reels and Jay was one of the few who caught a fish. He added that if the club keeps going, he's going to recruit more people to join and learn about the importance of fishing.

Tasi to Table Inc. is a group of 50 students from all four Public School System high schools—Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Da'ok Academy. The group also has advisers from each school, who helps recruit new participants for the eight-month-long program.

One of the advisors, Micah Page, who is from Saipan Southern High School and is a Social Studies teacher, uses his free time with the club to not only help students but to also learn more about ocean fishing and the activity's different techniques.

Another one of the group's advisers, Dan Wollak, an MHS physical education teacher, says he loves to fish and wants to share his knowledge with the students. Additionally, he grew up lake fishing and now spearfishes, and wants to learn the different techniques as well.

Tasi to Table Inc. president Gene Weaver said it has always been his desire to give back to the CNMI's youth and now has the chance to do so with the Youth Fishing Club program. "For many years, I've wanted to create a program such as this. Now it's a reality with the Tasi to Table Inc," he said.

Weaver said that, with Tasi to Table Inc., their priority as an independent club is to educate the youth on the importance of "sustainable living through fishing," while also using the CNMI's natural resource, the ocean.

Weaver hopes that the students will simultaneously learn not only sustainable living through fishing and using the ocean but the value of protecting the environment for future generations.

ROADSIDE WAVING
The Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Rehabilitation Program, the HOPE Recovery Center, and members of the community gathered along the Beach Road/Atkins Kroll intersection last Friday to wave for recovery and strength in the spirit of National Recovery Month. NEIL FAMA

Tourist sues CNMI DOL in federal court

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Russian tourist has filed a suit against the CNMI Department of Labor with the U.S. District Court for the NMI to ask the court to intervene in a labor complaint he filed that the CNMI Department of Labor later dismissed.

Denis Uvarov, a Russian citizen, said he is seeking compensation for unpaid wages and liquidated damages equal to the amount of unpaid wages.

In his lawsuit, Uvarov also named Gani Osman, the operator and owner of Saipan Security Services.

Along with the lawsuit he filed last Thursday, Uvarov attached a copy of the final decision issued by CNMI DOL dated Sept. 17 regarding his complaint against Osman for unpaid wages totaling 166 hours from Oct. 9, 2018, to Oct. 28, 2018.

According to the attached decision, CNMI DOL dismissed his appeal for lack of jurisdiction.

CNMI DOL also noted in the order that Uvarov is neither a U.S. citizen, a CNMI permanent resident, a foreign national worker, nor a worker possessing some other non-immigrant status.

Uvarov came to the CNMI as a tourist.

In his labor complaint, Uvarov was represented by attorney Pamela Blackburn, but CNMI DOL said that Blackburn filed an untimely notice of withdrawal of counsel five minutes prior to the start of the hearing.

Uvarov appealed the Sept. 3 CNMI DOL decision, saying there was a lack of due process because he was not given a chance to look for another attorney or an interpreter. However, CNMI Labor Secretary Vicky I. Benavente affirmed the dismissal of Uvarov's claims in a final agency decision. She said claims for tourists are pursued in the Superior Court. Moreover, she said, Uvarov was provided due process but he mistakes his counsel's mishandling of the case for a lack of due process.

"Appellant, through his attorney, was served with adequate notice of hearing. There is no showing that a request for an interpreter was denied," she said.

OPD thanks partners, community for success of virtual planning meetings

The CNMI Office of Planning and Development, under the Office of the Governor, held virtual task force planning meetings with agency partners and task force members in order to update the public regarding ongoing planning and sustainability efforts throughout the Marianas from Sept. 16 to 18.

The meetings, which took place via Zoom and were live streamed to the OPD Facebook page, @cnmiopd670, were a chance for OPD to update the public on the status of the CNMI's Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan and three planning task forces: the Built Environment Task Force, Natural Resources Task Force, and Socio-Economic/Disaster Risk Reduction Task Force, and for task force members and stakeholders to provide their questions and feedback on plan components and supporting implementation efforts.

OPD thanks its partners who participated in these meetings and provided valuable updates on their agency's efforts to achieve sustainability:

- Department of Commerce
- Commonwealth Utilities Corp.
- Department of Public Works
- Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.
- BECQ Division of Environmental Quality
- BECQ Division of Coastal Resources Management
- Marianas Visitors Authority
- Northern Marianas Housing Corp.
- DLNR Division of Fish and Wildlife
- DLNR Division of Agriculture
- Hazard Mitigation Grants Program
- NOAA Office for Coastal Management

Recordings of the meetings will be made available to view on the OPD website, and are also currently available to watch on the OPD Facebook page. Meeting highlights and written summaries will also be made available as soon as possible.

Public comments are still being accepted via OPD's online surveys and by emailing planning@opd.gov.mp.

- Visioning Survey: https://bit.ly/3a9Hjnj
- Guiding Values: https://bit.ly/3jwFWme

The draft visioning document and the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan can be found at opd.gov.mp. Comments are due on the visioning document by no later than Oct. 1, 2020. Please take this opportunity to make your voice heard and get involved in creating a #SustainableCNMI for all.

These public planning meetings are a great opportunity to provide your input on how OPD can help to shape a sustainable CNMI. Learn more at opd.gov.mp/. ***(PR)***

MYPros paves way to 'Get To Know Your Candidate'

Despite the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, MYPros paves a way to provide all candidates vying for a seat in the upcoming 22nd CNMI Legislature an opportunity to utilize its online domain to convey their vision and mission to voters throughout the Commonwealth.

MYPros introduces the "Get To Know Your Candidate Campaign," which will create a nonpartisan, public platform that will raise awareness and provide transparency for voters. All candidates are welcome to participate in this opportunity as it will allow their goals to be expressed to voters in one central location.

Candidates are asked to submit a headshot, brief biography, answers to a questionnaire, and a link to an optional promotional video. In the promotional video, candidates are encouraged to speak on their qualifications for election and any policy objectives they find critical to communication. Each candidate will have their own personal profile on the website, which will consist of the information they have provided.

Candidates may submit their information beginning yesterday, Sept. 28, 2020 through the following link: www.mypros670.com/get-to-know-your-candidate-2020. All candidate profiles will be made available for the public through the MYPros website as early as Oct. 5, 2020.

MYPros is the leading young professional organization that focuses on providing members from both the public and private sector with resources, guidance and support to further advance in their careers.

The organization is committed to creating an environment that opens doors for networking opportunities, professional development programs, social events, and a chance to engage in discussions centered on key issues and initiatives within our islands as well as globally.

The MYPros board of directors consists of the following young professionals: president Michelle C. Atalig, vice president Dr. Bobby C. Cruz, secretary Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu, treasurer Nicole Babauta, director Matt Deleon Guerrero, public affairs director Monique Boyer Sablan, and media director Frank Camacho. ***(PR)***

Saipan Marianas Lions Club refurbishes bus stops

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Marianas Lions Club completed last Sept. 26 the repair and repainting of two bus stops that they had adopted five years ago.

The two bus stops are located on Lower Navy Hill and in Gualo Rai. Lion Ladyvir Canape says that there were three volunteers who helped with the repainting: Tessie Tan, Alma Famat, Jhun Canape, and herself.

Last Sept. 6, the Saipan Marianas Lions Club's sister club, the Saipan Centennial Lions Club, repainted one of the pavilions at Sugar Dock Beach in Chalan Kanoa. They also repaired a barbecue stand and installed an urn for cigarette butts.

Within the week of Sept. 6 to Sept. 12, the club distributed care packages to community members who are in dire need of necessities. According to Saipan Centennial Lions Club president Arceli Lizama, they distributed 51 packages, each containing rice, eggs, oranges, milk, laundry detergent, noodles, and bathroom tissue.

Club induction

The sister club of Saipan Marianas Lions Club, Saipan Centennial Lions Club, inducted 11 new members last Sept. 26 at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. The club now has 36 members.

Lions Club International Foundation coordinator Annamae Adaza advised the new members to "be careful" with criticism and liberal with praise, and to build up and not destroy.

"We should not be happy for somebody else's despair or hardship," said Adaza. "As Lions we have different issues, challenges, and all our differences but, at the end of the day, we are still Lions."

"Our goal is to make a difference in our community," Lizama said. "This will not be possible without the commitment and dedication of members. We will continue our journey of service, especially for the less fortunate."

Torres: Democrats' inaction on COVID-19 relief disappointing

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has expressed disappointment with Senate Democrats in the U.S. Congress whom he accused of blocking last week the Republican coronavirus relief bill as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the United States and severely impacts state and territorial economies. He said the bill would have provided additional assistance for residents, businesses, and state governments.

In a statement on Thursday, Torres said: "This news is unfortunate, as Congress continues to show a lack of action. Since the enactment of the CARES Act, which was led by President Trump and Senate Republicans, the CNMI has been diligently working to strengthen our pandemic response and give direct monetary assistance to our residents and businesses in the form of stimulus checks, unemployment benefits, and small business loans.

"As governor, I have been on calls with the White House almost every week and receive numerous updates from our congressional leaders on the next round of COVID-19 relief for our entire country, especially for us here in the territories. Our delegate to Congress, Congressman Sablan, has continued to tell me in letters that the Congress will be passing a second stimulus bill for COVID-19 relief, which I have expressed support for in order to get additional assistance for our people.

"Last week, Democrats blocked a Republican proposal that would have authorized new money for small businesses, increased funding for COVID-19 testing and schools, and funding for unemployment benefits. Congressman Sablan informed me months ago that a coronavirus relief bill would include more funding for our NAP office—but no real solutions have been presented by the Congressional Democrats on this.

"Because of a lack of congressional action, President Trump and the White House are now going to focus on getting assistance for our people and businesses through executive action. The President has already signed four executive orders providing unemployment benefits along with the continuation of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, preventing evictions, deferring payroll tax obligations which helps our low- and middle-income taxpayers, and relieving student loan debt.

Torres

"The White House has also expressed support for another round of $1,200 stimulus checks for individuals. These are priorities that are supported across the country, and we thank the President for continuing to prioritize everyone in the U.S. affected by the pandemic.

"Regrettably, the CNMI was shortchanged in the last CARES Act. While Guam received approximately $1.63 billion, the CNMI only received about $250 million as of September. Based off our population, which is approximately a third of Guam's, the CNMI should have received about $543 million. This was a lack of action once again by Congressman Sablan to maximize COVID-19 funds for the CNMI. Our administration continues to do its part to expend the funding we received in compliance with federal spending requirements.

"The CNMI has suffered some of the worst impacts to overall economic activity of any other community in the nation, but despite these disproportionate impacts, the people of the CNMI received substantially less per capita in government support for critical public services and emergency response capabilities. Even the smallest states in the nation were guaranteed at least $1.25 billion in support for unappropriated expenses, while the CNMI was given less than $40 million for government services.

"This inability to work for the CNMI even amongst a Democrat-controlled House either means the Democratic leadership does not care for the people of the CNMI, or they do not care for our representative to Congress.

"Yet despite Congressman Sablan and the Democrats' inaction, we have done more with less.

"Since January, our Commonwealth has done its part to prepare our islands against COVID-19, and we are blessed to say that we are one of the safest places in the U.S. and in the world because we were proactive and our community has cooperated to protect our *man'amko* and our critically ill. But we need more help to continue our strong response against COVID-19.

"We are tired of waiting on false promises by Congress and letters from our delegate saying that there is going to be another CARES Act funding from Congress, when Democrats blocked Republican solutions that were reasonable and fair. But we continue to encourage Congressman Sablan to urge his fellow Democratic colleagues to work with Republicans on bipartisan COVID-19 relief.

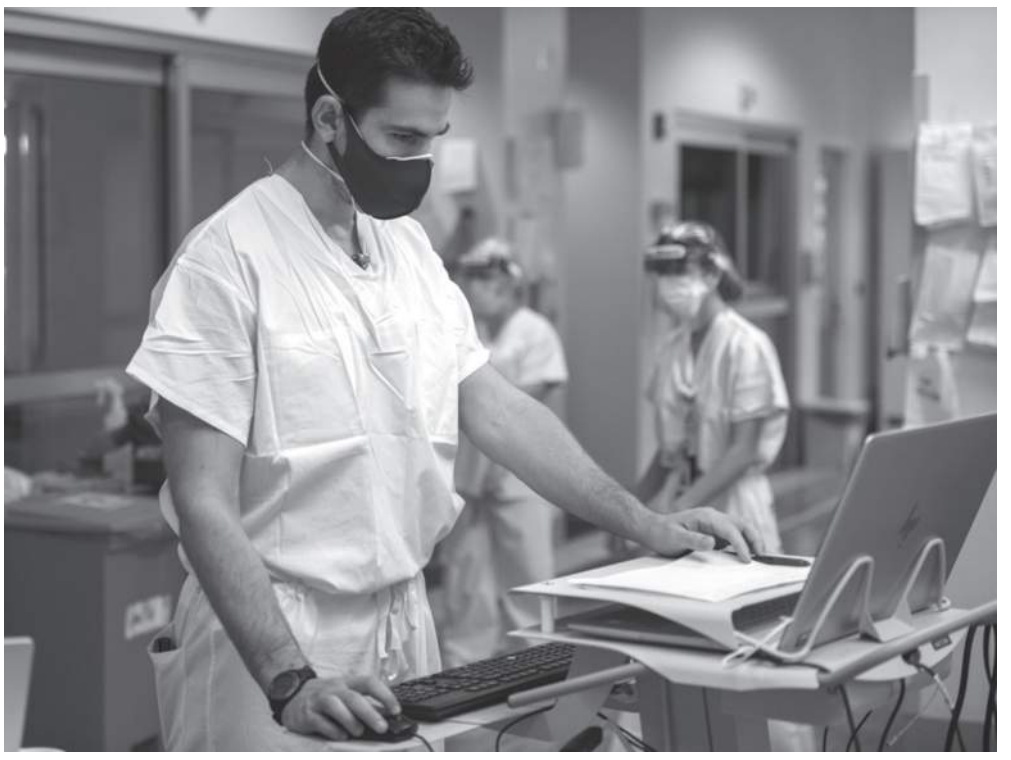
"As governor, I will continue to be proactive and work with the White House and our President so that we can get additional funding that will directly assist our people. We hope the Congressional Democrats can stop playing politics with our people by working with the solutions Republicans have proposed to protect our country." ***(PR)***

Military medical team supports Guam's fight vs COVID-19

ASAN, Guam—In response to the government of Guam's continuing efforts to address the recent growth in the number of COVID-19 cases throughout the island, 22 military medical professionals have been integrated with the Guam Memorial Hospital staff to supplement COVID-19 medical care and response.

Elements of the joint service team, consisting of Army and Air Force medical professionals, arrived in Guam starting Sept. 2 and began preparations for assisting local medical professionals in the fight against COVID-19.

"We have been working closely with the government of Guam since COVID's arrival [in] Guam in March, and we are proud to be able to provide additional medical assistance to the community in which we live and work," said Rear Adm. John Menoni, commander, Joint Region Marianas. "In the spirit of collaboration, JRM and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have executed a Defense Support for Civil Authorities agreement with GovGuam and, through this avenue, we are able to augment the island's available health care staff with a specialized medical team for COVID-19 patients."


Army Maj. Michael Switzer, a pulmonary critical care physician, checks a patient's charts in the intensive care unit of Guam Memorial Hospital.

MCS3 MACADAM KANE WEISSMAN

Army Capt. Jason Ray, a critical care nurse, compares notes with a Guam Memorial Hospital staff member in a GMH care unit.

MCS3 MACADAM KANE WEISSMAN

Elements of the joint service medical team, composed of service members assigned to the 47th Combat Support Hospital at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, and the 673rd Medical Support Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, began work at GMH last Sept. 3. Both units provided critical care nurses, respiratory therapists, respiratory technicians, internists and intensivists to support GMH's efforts amid a rise in hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

During their time at GMH, the medical team has provided critical care and rehabilitation to approximately 70 patients to date, providing invaluable assistance to Guam's medical professionals and reinforcing the mutually beneficial civilian-military relationship in Guam and throughout the region.

"This is a historic time for the territory of Guam when the Department of Defense can bring in some of its most highly trained medical professionals and work alongside the best medical professionals in Guam," said Jeffrey Barone, deputy defense coordinating officer-West. "Guam is home to all of the services, to include the U.S. Coast Guard, and we all claim Guam as our home and have a desire to see this COVID pandemic come to an end—and it will—with all of us working together."

The team is scheduled to continue providing medical support until the end of this month when the duration of the FEMA mission assignment for the team's medical support will be complete.

Members of the team were in known COVID-free environments before traveling to Guam and received negative COVID-19 test results before being permitted to begin work at GMH. ***(PR)***

Army 1st Lt. Reynalynn Palanca, a critical care registered nurse, replaces intravenous drip lines in the intensive care unit of Guam Memorial Hospital.

MCS3 MACADAM KANE WEISSMAN

Coast Guard fast response cutter arrives at Apra Harbor

By PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS RYAN FISHER
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Myrtle Hazard* enters Apra Harbor before arriving at its new homeport in Santa Rita, Guam.
U.S. NAVY/MCS3 MACADAM KANE WEISSMAN

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Myrtle Hazard* arrived at its new homeport in Santa Rita, Guam, last Thursday.

The crew of the *Myrtle Hazard* traveled from Key West, Florida to Guam, covering a distance of over 10,000 nautical miles during the two month journey.

The new fast response cutter, or FRC, is the first of three scheduled to be stationed in Guam and replaces the 30-year old 110-foot Island-class patrol boats. FRCs are equipped with advanced command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems and boast greater range and endurance.

"FRC's in Guam strengthen and affirm the U.S. Coast Guard's operational presence in Oceania," said Lt. Tony Seleznick, commanding officer of the *Myrtle Hazard*. "We increase the fleet's range, endurance, and capabilities to deter illegal behavior, support Search and Rescue, promote maritime stability, and strengthen partnerships."

The FRCs represent the Coast Guard's commitment to modernizing service assets to address the increasingly complex global Maritime Transportation System. Like the Island-class patrol boats before them, the *Myrtle Hazard* will support the people of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and our international partners throughout Oceania.

FRC's are designed for various missions including drug interdiction, defense operations, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, marine safety, and environmental protection. FRC's can reach speeds of up to 28 knots and endure 5 days out at sea while covering over 2,500 nautical miles.

"*Myrtle Hazard* will significantly increase the capabilities of the Coast Guard throughout the region," said Capt. Chris Chase, commander, Coast Guard Sector Guam. "I am excited to welcome the crew of the Myrtle Hazard home and look forward to them conducting operations with our partners in the near future."

Myrtle Hazard, the cutter's namesake, was the first female to enlist in the Coast Guard. Enlisting in January 1918, she became a radio operator during World War I. She ended her service in 1919 as an Electrician's Mate 1st Class.

Each FRC has a standard 24-person crew. This will bring over 70 new Coast Guard members to Guam, along with a projected 100 family members. In addition to the crews of the three ships additional Coast Guard support members and their families will also be in Guam.

TINIAN ROAD PROJECT STARTS

Equipment Operator 2nd Class Kadee Smith ground guides Equipment Operator Constructionman Ramsey Lora, both assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, on the D5 Dozer to track and knock down heavy shrubbery to provide access to the work area in support of Marpo Heights Road G construction.
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Equipment Operator 1st Class Adam Lefford, assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, conducts hauling operations on a MK30 Dump Truck to ensure the job site is safe and clear of debris in support of Marpo Heights Road G construction.
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Equipment Operator 2nd Class Kadee Smith ground guides Equipment Operator Constructionman Ramsey Lora assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian on the D5 Dozer to track and knock down heavy shrubbery to provide access to the work area in support of Marpo Heights Road G construction.
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Equipment Operator 3rd Class Cord Price, assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, utilizes a clamshell bucket on the 924 Loader to remove downed obstructions in support of Marpo Heights Road G construction.
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Equipment Operator 1st Class Adam Lefford, assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, conducting hauling operations on a MK30 Dump Truck to ensure the job site is safe and clear of debris in support of Marpo Heights Road G construction.
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Senior Chief Equipment Operator Matthew Kreamalmyer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian assistant officer-in-charge, provides on the job training to the NMCB-3 Detail Tinian road crew on safe and proper tree topping operations. NMCB-3 is deployed across the Indo-Pacific region conducting high-quality construction to support U.S. and partner nations to strengthen partnerships, deter aggression, and enable expeditionary logistics and naval power projection. The battalion stands ready to complete assigned tasking, support Humanitarian Aid/Disaster Relief and Major Combat Operations throughout the area of responsibility.
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Equipment Operator 3rd Class Cord Price, assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, utilizes a clamshell bucket on the 924 Loader to remove downed obstructions in support of Marpo Heights Road G construction.
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Equipment Operator Constructionman Ramsey Lora, assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, conducts noninvasive clearing operations on the D5 Dozer to give access to the obstructions on Marpo Heights.
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 193

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Census Bureau needs more time, and Congress must act fast to make sure everyone gets counted

A pandemic that has killed more than 200,000 Americans, and the toxic politics of a presidential election year, have disrupted the taking of the 2020 Census. That's worrisome for anybody whose life is touched in some way by federal spending—meaning, pretty much everybody. The census is not a quaint tradition or historical artifact; it's a research project to gather, analyze and certify data that the federal government will utilize for a decade—including for apportionment of congressional seats. The pandemic's effects could linger for some time, so information from the 2020 Census will be essential in helping the country get back to something that resembles normal.

Federal support for education, health care, infrastructure and dozens of other programs is allocated to states based on census data. According to an analysis by the GW Institute of Public Policy at George Washington University, the 2010 census yielded $39.1 billion for Pennsylvania and $27.2 billion for New Jersey in 2016 alone. To ensure equity, as well as the wisest use of federal resources, the count—required by the 14th Amendment to include "all persons" residing in each state—needs to be as accurate and complete as possible.

The economic and political implications of undercounting communities of all kinds will last for a decade or more. Census numbers are used in calculating state and local shares of $1.5 trillion annually in federal support for homeland security, job training, nutritional assistance and veterans assistance programs.

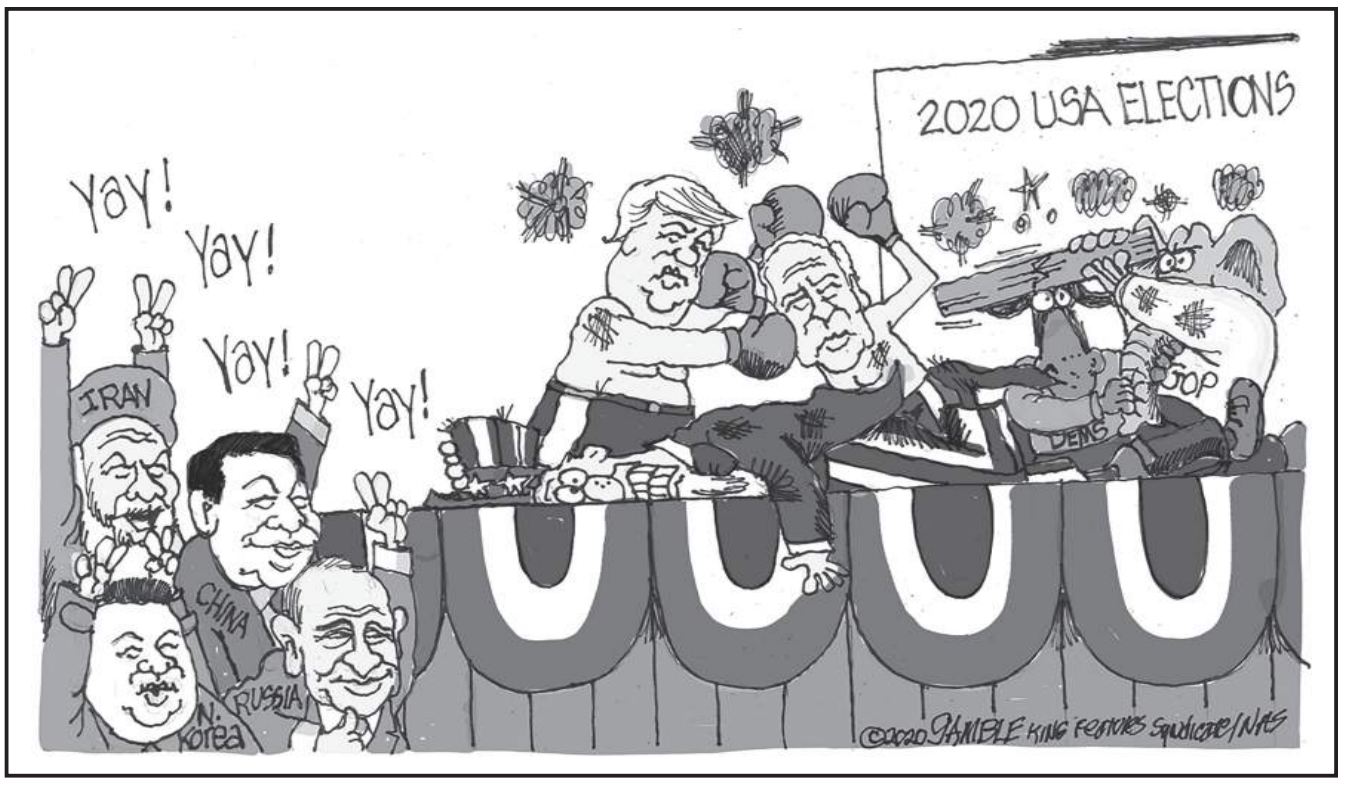
Unfortunately, much as President Trump has done to the U.S. Postal Service, and to voting by mail, he has launched politically motivated attacks on the census. That includes not giving the bureau the extra time it says it needs. Congress must act now to extend the deadlines for completing census field operations from Sept. 30 to Oct. 31, and for final data reporting from Dec. 31 to April 21, 2021.

Doing so would ease the administration's tighter-than-usual deadlines. But the extensions also would help ensure better counts in rural areas that traditionally vote Republican. Adding four weeks to field operations that have been impeded by COVID-19 restrictions would give rural, as well as urban and suburban, communities of color a better chance to be thoroughly counted.

According to Pennsylvania state Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, a Philadelphia Democrat, the city's "abysmal" response rate of 55% could jeopardize future federal assistance equivalent to $2,000 in spending annually for every resident. For the poorest of America's largest cities, with fully one-quarter of all residents living below the federal poverty line, such a shortfall would be painful indeed.

In a year of painful reckonings with the stain of racism and its enduring effects, particularly on Black people, a census process that has historically undercounted communities of color ought to be expanding, not limiting, efforts to account for everyone. Political leader and voting rights advocate Stacey Abrams recently launched an effort focused on the census (www.faircount.org). Residents need to contact their congressional representatives and persuade them to support the deadline extensions—so the Census Bureau can get the job done right.

(c)2020 *The Philadelphia Inquirer*



Settlement Fund responds to HR 21-37

Editor's Note: The following is a letter that NMI Settlement Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan sent Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero in reaction to House Resolution 21-37 that he introduced in the CNMI Legislature on Sept. 22, 2020. The response is being reprinted here, with some minor edits.

Dear Rep. Guerrero: The Settlement Fund received a copy of H.R 21-37, a House resolution introduced by you, requesting the following: (1) that the CNMI government oppose the NMI District Court's order authorizing the increase of the Settlement Fund Trustee's hourly rate; and (2) that the Settlement Fund submit actuary and investment reports to the Legislature.

The purpose of this letter is to address certain factual misrepresentations contained in H.R. 21-37, and to remind you that all Settlement Fund reports you are seeking (including, but not limited to, Actuary Reports, Investment Reports, and Independent Audit Reports and financial statements) are available on the Settlement Fund's website, which is updated regularly: www.nmisf.com.

Here are the Settlement Fund's responses to certain factual misrepresentations contained in H.R. 21-37:

1. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, on June 1I, 2019, Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, District Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Guam, approved the pay raise increase of Settlement Fund Trustee Joyce C. Tang from $250 an hour to $350 an hour:

Settlement Fund response:

Ms. Tang's request for the hourly rate increase was approved by the District Court on Dec. 12, 2019, not on June 11, 2019.

2. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, upon rendering such orders, fudge Tydingco-Gatewood provided a 10-day period for the plaintiff, counsel for the Settlement Class, and the counsel for the CNM1 government to state their objections;

Settlement Fund response:

This statement is misleading. There is a 10-day and an annual objection period agreed upon by the CNMI government and the Class Members, set forth in Paragraph 10,2 of the Settlement Agreement ("10.2 The Trustee's Right to Remuneration. The Trustee shall be remunerated for his services from the Settlement Fund in a reasonable amount as approved by the District Court. The CNM1, Class Counsel and Plaintiff shall have the right to timely object to any request by the Trustee for remuneration within ten days of such request or on an annual basis."). The objection period cannot be changed without the District Court's approval.

3. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, Ms. Tang's justification for her compensational increase is that it is solely based on the positive growth of the stock market, however, the growth of the stock market is not attributed to her legal services to the Settlement Fund;

Settlement Fund response:

This statement is false and misleading. Ms. Tang has never represented that the increased hourly rate was justified solely on "the positive growth of the stock," nor has she ever taken "full credit" for the growth of stock. Today, the Settlement Fund has over $135.35 million invested—which is more than what it had at its inception in 2013. The success of the Settlement Fund is due to many factors.

Investment decisions are made by a team of professionals with a proven track record of making sound decisions. The Settlement Fund staff work tirelessly to ensure that the Settlement Fund's accounts are properly maintained, that retirees are given prompt service, and that retirees and the government are kept fully informed of the status of the Fund and the status of their benefits. Ms. Tang and the Settlement Fund team have demonstrated single minded determination in protecting the benefits of the retirees and protecting the Settlement Fund by fighting to ensure payments owed to the Settlement Fund are made and by protecting money in the Settlement Fund from being diverted for other purposes. These combined efforts have ensured that retirees have been paid at least 75% of their benefits as required under the Settlement Agreement, and are important in expanding the life of the Settlement Fund.

4. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, pay increases are highly unfeasible at the present time as we face this intangible force that seems to affect the entire world in one way or another;

Settlement Fund response:

This statement is misleading. Ms. Tang's pay rate was increased in December 2019, several months before the pandemic. She did not request a rate increase during the pandemic.

5. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, given the specified court order and the timeliness of the pandemic, it is not in the best interest of the CNMI to be giving increases to any official who is being paid by taxpayer dollars;

Settlement Fund response:

This statement is misleading. First, Ms. Tang is not a CNMI government official. As the court-appointed Trustee, she reports exclusively to the District Court; her actions are overseen by Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood; and all payments made to her law firm are scrutinized by the District Court.

Because payments owed to Ms. Tang's firm are paid from funds belonging to the Settlement Fund, any payment made for her services do not impact the CNMI's budget. As you are fully aware, the payments owed to the law firm do not increase the CNMI Government's payment obligations under the Settlement Agreement.

6. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, Ms. Joyce Tang currently resides on the island of Guam, which adds an additional cost to the Settlement Fund for navel, room, board, and transportation;

Settlement Fund response:

This statement is false and misleading. As of this date, her trav-

See SETTLEMENT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

SETTLEMENT

From Page 8

el costs have been limited to airfare between Saipan and Guam. Ms. Tang's firm does not charge for food expenses incurred on Saipan. All of the trips in the past few years have been day trips and no hotel charges were incurred. All costs incurred by her firm are reasonable and the reimbursement of such costs are subject to the District Court's review and approval.

7. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, as a cost-saving measure, it would be appropriate to appoint a legal counsel who resides within the CNMI;

Settlement Fund response:

This statement is misleading in several ways. First, the minimal extra costs of Ms. Tang being in Guam are more than offset by the benefit the Settlement Fund (and Retirees) receive from her leadership and single minded devotion to the protection of the Settlement Fund and the well-being of Retirees. Second, whatever extra costs there may be because she is in Guam are negligible. Third, as you know, the reason the District Court Judge selected a Trustee from Guam is that the candidates she considered from the CNMI all had conflicts of interest. Finally, Ms. Tang administers the Settlement Fund under the exclusive jurisdiction of the NMI District Court. The Legislature does not have the power to replace or appoint a Trustee.

8. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, such measure, as well as the additional pay raise, can lead to additional financial resources that can be used to aid those individuals who are earning less than other recipients;

Settlement Fund response:

This statement is false and misleading. As you know, payments owed to Ms. Tang's law firm have no bearing on benefit payments made to the Class Members (Retirees).

Class Members' benefit payments are based on a statutory benefit formula taking into consideration the Retirees' respective average annual salary and years in government servile. As required under the Settlement Agreement, each member is receiving at least 75% of what they are entitled to receive. As of this date, the Class Members are receiving 100% of their full benefits (i.e., 75% owed under the Settlement Agreement, plus 25% optional payment by the CNMI government)

9. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the court ruling, the Settlement Fund and the CNMI government are obligated to pay 75% and 25%, respectively, of the retirees' pension;

Settlement Fund response:

This statement is false and misleading. The Settlement Fund is obligated to pay 75% of the benefit payments. The CNMI government has the discretion (not obligation) to cover the remaining 25% balance. Ms. Tang very much appreciates the dedication of the Governor and the Lt. Governor in finding ways to continue to make the Government's 25% contribution even in these challenging times.

10. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, the Settlement Fund, as the largest recipient of the CNMI's Annual Budget for the current and future fiscal years to come, along with the decreasing revenues, it would be highly appropriate to increase the Settlement Fund's obligation to 80% payment of the retirees' pension while decreasing the CNMI government's obligation to 20%;

Settlement Fund response:

This is a reckless and dangerous suggestion and directly harmful to the retirees. When Ms. Tang was appointed Trustee on September 25, 2013, the experts expected the Settlement Fund to run out of money by 2019. In other words, the experts predicted there would be no money to pay retirees unless the CNMI government came up with a way to pay retirees out of each year's current budget—an obvious impossibility.

Through the hard work of the entire Settlement Fund team, and with the support of the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Legislature, the Settlement Fund has not gone broke and is in fact in a stronger position today than when she was appointed. Part of the reason for this is that the she along with our Settlement Fund team have been ferocious in fighting off efforts by some in the government to dip into the Settlement Fund or to place added burdens on the Settlement Fund. Your suggestion that it 'Would be highly appropriate to increase the Settlement Fund's obligation to 80°%" without first considering the actuarial impact the increase would have on the Settlement Fund's investment horizon (i.e., how long the Settlement Fund can make full payment before it goes broke) is exactly the type of reckless action that got the Settlement Fund into such trouble in the first place. Obviously, increasing the Settlement Fund's obligation from 75% to 80% will deplete the Settlement Fund's investment balance at a much quicker rate.

11. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, this breakdown will provide better financial stability to our retirees for future years to come;

Settlement Fund response:

This is an absolutely false statement and a direct threat to the Settlement Fund and Retirees. Increasing the Settlement Fund's obligation to 80% will not create stability and will not benefit the retirees for years to come. What it will do is lead to the Settlement Fund running out of money more quickly with the very real risk that the day will come when the government cannot pay the retirees what they are owed.

12. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, in addition to the previously stated issues, it has been brought to our attention that our retirees have not been kept well-informed about matters concerning the settlement and that the retirees require additional time to respond to the court's decisions;

Settlement Fund response:

This statement is untrue and a disservice to the staff of the Settlement Fund who are diligent in actively maintaining and updating the Settlement Fund's website (www.nmisf.com/report/) with the following reports when issued:

- Trustee Reports
- Investment Consultant Reports
- Financial Reports
- Actuary Reports
- Independent Audit Reports (including Financial Statements)
- NMI District Court Orders

These reports are also filed with the NMI District Court in the *Johnson v Inos* case, and available to the public.

13. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, the 10-day period to object to court decisions is insufficient and more time is highly warranted for the retirees to respond;

Settlement Fund response:

See Settlement Fund Response No. 2.

14. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, it would be highly imperative that the Settlement Fund submit copies of the annual actuarial reports to the Legislative and Executive Branch of the CNMI government;

Settlement Fund response:

This statement is misleading and not necessary. The Settlement Fund posts all reports online at: www.nmisf.com/actuary-reports/, where they are easily accessible. Ms. Tang and I routinely speak to members of the Legislative and Executive Branches of government, all of whom seem to be familiar with the contents of the reports posted by the Settlement Fund.

15. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, in submitting such reports, both branches of government can be made fully aware of the matters going on within the Settlement Fund and act accordingly for better effectiveness and efficiency;

Settlement Fund response:

All branches of government can be made fully aware of Settlement Fund matters by accessing the following reports on the Settlement Fund website (www.nmisf.com):

- Trustee Reports
- Investment Consultant Reports
- Financial Reports
- Actuary Reports
- Independent Audit Reports (including Financial Statements)
- NMI District Court Orders

If you, or any member of the public, are not comfortable with using websites, the Settlement Fund staff will be happy to show you how to use the Fund's website.

16. House resolution statement:

WHEREAS, as elected officials, we cannot sit idly by and allow for such matters to take place;

Settlement Fund response:

Please take comfort in knowing that the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of Finance, and some of your colleagues in the Legislature have not been idle and have been keeping current with the status of the Settlement Fund.

17. House resolution statement:

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that the House strongly opposes the pay raise increase of Settlement Fund Trustee Joyce C. Tang and respectfully requests the CNMI government to act on such matter;

Settlement Fund response:

H.R. 21-37 offers no factual or legal basis for the NMI government to challenge the Court's order approving Ms. Tang's hourly rate.

18. House resolution statement:

Be it further resolved that the House respectfully reminds the Settlement Fund and Trustee Joyce Tang to provide Actuarial Reports to both houses of the Legislature;

Settlement Fund response:

All actuary reports are available on the Settlement Fund's website at: www.nmisf.com/actuary-reports/, and are routinely accessed by members of both houses of the Legislature. We are sorry you have not been keeping current with them.

19. House resolution statement:

Be it further resolved that the House of Representatives also insists that the Trustee issue monthly reports on the status of the Settlement Fund investments to the retirees or make them available online to the extent possible, and to provide such reports to both houses of the Legislature as well;

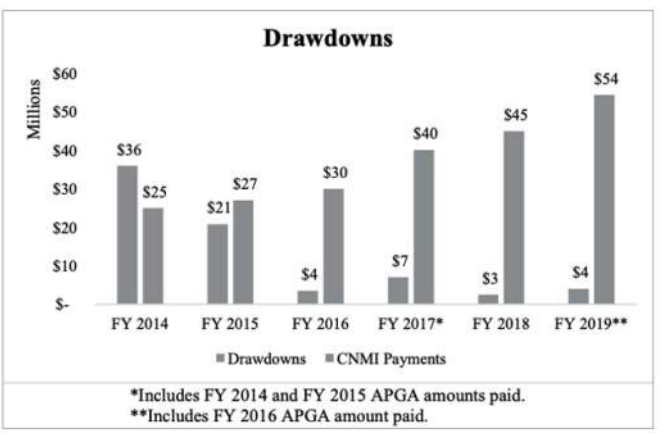
Settlement Fund response:

It is misleading to ask the Legislature to insist on something that the Settlement Fund has been doing every month for the past seven years. All investment reports from the Fund's investment consultant (Wilshire) are available on its website at: https://www.nmisf.com/investment- consultant-reports-2/. The reports are uploaded monthly, dating back to December 2013. If you are not comfortable with using websites, the Settlement Fund staff will be happy to show you how to use the Settlement Fund's website.

Highlights of Trustee's services to Settlement Fund

■ The Settlement Fund currently has a balance of $135.35 million sufficient to cover more than two years of pension payments. This amount is more than what the Settlement Fund started with at its inception in 2013.

■ Persistently pushing NMI government to prioritize payments to the Settlement Fund and working collaboratively with the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of Finance, Senate President, and House Speaker to secure a funding source and timely Minimum Annual Payments (MAP) payments and Alternative Payment a Greater Amount (APGA) to avoid a draw down on the Settlement Fund's investments. As a result, FY 2020 marked the first time that the Settlement Fund did not have to draw down on its investments to make benefit payments. A historical schedule is provided below.



■ Aggressively pursued the Merrill Lynch litigation when many were urging quick settlement for small amount. Ms. Tang's strategy resulted in a much higher settlement of $7.35 million, and netted $5.1 million for the Settlement Fund.

■ Ensuring that funds for the 25% benefit payment sources were properly funded.

■ Forged on with the CUC litigation that has since resulted in settlement.

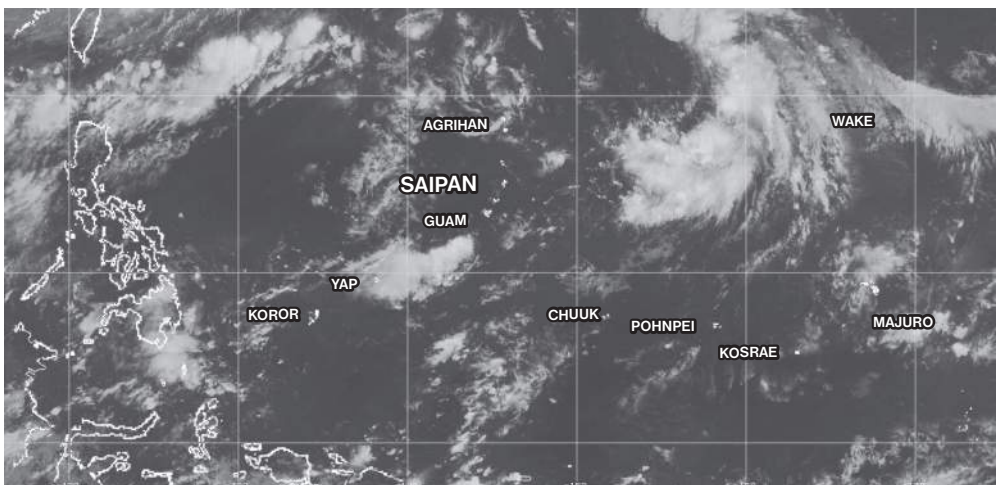
■ Successfully intervened in the ongoing PSS case to protect the Settlement Fund's position and priority with the CNMI's budget.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. scattered showers for Guam and Rota. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. West to southwest winds around 10 mph. Locally heavy rainfall possible.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:21 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with isolated showers and light winds prevail across the region this morning. Tropical Storm Kujira is seen well northeast of the Marianas. Buoys show seas between 2 and 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:05 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:04 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:47 AM	4:43 PM
Wednesday	-	4:36 AM	5:20 PM
Thursday	-	5:24 AM	5:56 PM
Friday	-	6:11 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	-	6:57 AM	7:06 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	55° / 46°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
London	Rain	63° / 50°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 37°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°
New York	Mostly Sunny	75° / 58°
Osaka	Sunny	88° / 68°
Paris	Showers	68° / 54°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	81° / 63°
Salem	Sunny	84° / 61°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 57°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 66°
Tokyo	Sunny	82° / 66°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	76° / 56°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:30 AM	LOW TIDE	0.89
5:38 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.65
12:23 PM	LOW TIDE	0.15
7:01 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.81

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	7:30am	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:45pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

United becomes 1st US carrier to make COVID tests available

UNITED AIRLINES

United Airlines chief customer officer Toby Enqvist said their new COVID testing program is another way the carrier is helping customers meet their destinations' entry requirements, safely and conveniently.

SAN FRANCISCO—United Airlines became the first U.S. airline to launch a COVID-19 pilot testing program for travelers that could make it easier for them to manage quarantine requirements and entry conditions of popular destinations around the world. Starting on October 15, customers traveling on United from San Francisco International Airport (SFO) to Hawaii will have the option to take a rapid test at the airport or a self-collected, mail-in test ahead of their trip.

The rapid Abbott ID NOW COVID-19 test—administered by GoHealth Urgent Care and their partner Dignity Health—provides results in approximately 15 minutes and will be available to United customers on the same day as their flight departing from SFO. The mail-in test option will be administered by Color and it is recommended that customers initiate testing at least 10 days prior to their trip and provide their sample within 72 hours of their trip.

The airline worked closely with Hawaii officials to ensure that any United customer – both visitors and Hawaiian residents returning home – who tests negative on either test would not be subjected to the state's current 14-day quarantine requirement. United currently offers more flights to Hawaii than any other major network carrier including daily service between San Francisco and Honolulu (HNL), Maui (OGG) and Kona (KOA). The carrier plans to increase service to Hawaii on October 15, including the resumption of service between San Francisco and Lihue (LIH) and additional flights between San Francisco and Maui and Kona.

"Our new COVID testing program is another way we are helping customers meet their destinations' entry requirements, safely and conveniently," said Toby Enqvist, chief customer officer at United. "We'll look to quickly expand customer testing to other destinations and U.S. airports later this year to complement our state-of-the-art cleaning and safety measures that include a mandatory mask policy, antimicrobial and electrostatic spraying and our hospital-grade HEPA air filtration systems."

GoHealth urgent care rapid test

United first partnered with GoHealth Urgent Care in July to test its international flight crews at SFO. United now plans to expand that testing infrastructure to include customers who wish to be tested for COVID-19 pre-flight. Customers can schedule their visits online in advance for the on-site testing facility that is located at the international terminal and will receive their results in approximately 15 minutes. GoHealth Urgent Care's dedicated COVID-19 testing area will be available from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. PT daily.

"We are excited about expanding our partnership with United and continuing to support their proactive safety measures," said Todd Latz, CEO of GoHealth Urgent Care. "Our on-site, real-time testing for passengers is yet another example of GoHealth's nationwide efforts to fight the spread of COVID-19 and ensure a safer return to normal activities and business operations."

Color physician-ordered self-collection test

United is working with Color to offer self-collected, mail-in tests for customers traveling to Hawaii. United will email customers traveling from San Francisco to Hawaii an invitation to purchase their physician-ordered Color self-collection kit at least 10 days ahead of their departure, collect their own samples at home 72 hours prior to their departure and return their test via overnight mail or to a drop box at SFO.

Color then processes those tests at their local, CLIA-certified COVID-19 testing laboratory and returns results via text and/or email within 24-48 hours. Color's self-collection kit includes a plastic collection tube, a non-invasive nasal swab and instructions on how to properly collect a specimen.

"Convenient, widespread COVID-19 testing with fast and reliable results is critical to a return to normalcy and to accelerate the economic recovery," said Caroline Savello, Chief Commercial Officer at Color. "We are proud to partner with United to support the safe and responsible return of travelers to the skies."

United CleanPlusSM

Since the start of the pandemic, United has been a leader among U.S. airlines in enacting new policies and innovations designed to keep employees and passengers safer when traveling. It was the first U.S. airline to mandate masks for flight attendants, quickly following with all customers and employees. United was also among the first U.S. carriers to announce it wouldn't permit customers who refused to comply with the airline's mandatory mask policy to fly with them while the face mask policy is in place. United was also the first U.S. airline to roll out touchless check-in for customers with bags, and the first to require passengers take an online health assessment before traveling. And last week, the airline announced it will apply Zoono Microbe Shield, an EPA registered antimicrobial coating that forms a long-lasting bond with surfaces and inhibits the growth of microbes, to its entire mainline and express fleet before the end of the year.

For more details on all the ways United is helping keep customers safe during their journey, please visit united.com/cleanplus. ***(PR)***

Amazon to kick off holiday shopping with October Prime

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon is aiming to kickstart the holiday shopping season early this year.

The company is holding its annual Prime Day over two days in October this year, after the pandemic forced it to postpone the sales event from July. It's the first time Prime Day is being held in the fall, and Amazon is positioning it as a way to get people to start their holiday shopping.

Even before Amazon's announcement Monday, major retailers have said they plan to push shoppers to start their holiday shopping in October and offer deals earlier, hoping to avoid crowds in their stores in November and December.

Prime Day, which will run from Oct. 13 to Oct. 14 this year, is sure to put pressure on rivals to offer deals around the same time. In past years, Walmart, Best Buy and Target have offered their own online discounts during Prime Day.

Amazon started the sales event in 2015 as its answer to Singles' Day, a shopping holiday in China popularized by Chinese ecommerce company Alibaba. Prime Day has become one of Amazon's biggest shopping days, since it offers some of its deepest discounts of the year.

Amazon also sees it as a way to get more people to sign up for its Prime membership, since only those paying $12.99 a month or $119 a year can access the deals.

The company said Amazon Prime members in 19 countries will get access to deals this year, including two new ones: Brazil and Turkey. It already held Prime Day in India this summer.

Trump's tax revelation could tarnish image that fueled rise

WASHINGTON (AP)—The bombshell revelations that President Donald Trump paid just $750 in federal income taxes the year he ran for office and paid no income taxes at all in many others threaten to undercut a pillar of his appeal among blue-collar voters and provide a new opening for his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, on the eve of the first presidential debate.

Trump has worked for decades to build an image of himself as a hugely successful business mogul—even choosing that moniker as his Secret Service code name. But The New York Times on Sunday revealed that he paid just $750 in federal income taxes in 2016, the year he won the presidency, and in 2017, his first year in office. He paid no income taxes whatsoever in 10 of the previous 15 years, largely because he reported losing more money than he made, according to the Times, which obtained years' worth of tax return data that the president had long fought to keep private.

The development comes at a particularly precarious moment for Trump, whose Republican campaign is struggling to overcome criticism of the president's handling of the pandemic. It hands Biden an easy attack line heading into Tuesday's debate. And with early voting already happening in some states and Election Day just over a month away, Trump may be running out of time to turn his campaign around.

"Donald Trump needs this election to be about Joe Biden as a choice," said longtime GOP consultant Alex Conant. "This keeps the focus squarely on Trump's character and the chaos going into the most important night of the campaign, the debate."

Of course, Trump has repeatedly faced—and survived—devastating turns that would have sunk any other politician. That includes, most notably, the stunning "Access Hollywood" tape released in October 2016, in which Trump was recorded bragging about kissing and groping women without their permission. The video's release came just two days before Trump was set to face then-candidate Hillary Clinton in their second debate and was considered a death knell to his campaign at the time.

At this point in the race, with voting already underway in many states and so few voters still undecided, it is unclear whether any new discoveries about Trump would make any difference. Trump's support over the years has remained remarkably consistent, polls over the course of his presidency have found.

Yet the tax allegations go to the very heart of Trump's appeal, especially among the blue-collar voters in states like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan who propelled him to the presidency in 2016. Trump was supported by about two-thirds of white voters without college degrees, according to an analysis by the Pew Research Center, versus only about 2 in 10 nonwhite noncollege graduates.

Indeed, in a Gallup poll from February 2016, Republicans who wanted to see Trump win their party's nomination cited his experience as a businessman as the second-most important reason they backed him, surpassed only by his status as a nonpolitician and an outsider.

Nation

NY Times: Trump paid $750 in US income taxes in 2016, 2017

By JOSH BOAK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump paid just $750 in federal income taxes the year he ran for president and in his first year in the White House, according to a report in The New York Times.

Trump, who has fiercely guarded his tax filings and is the only president in modern times not to make them public, paid no federal income taxes in 10 of the past 15 years.

The details of the tax filings published Sunday complicate Trump's description of himself as a shrewd and patriotic businessman, revealing instead a series of financial losses and income from abroad that could come into conflict with his responsibilities as president. The president's financial disclosures indicated he earned at least $434.9 million in 2018, but the tax filings reported a $47.4 million loss.

The tax filings also illustrate how a reputed billionaire could pay little to nothing in taxes, while someone in the middle class could pay substantially more than him. Roughly half of Americans pay no income taxes, primarily because of how low their incomes are. But IRS figures indicate that the average tax filer paid roughly $12,200 in 2017, about 16 times more than what the president paid.

The disclosure, which the Times said comes from tax return data it obtained extending over two decades, comes at a pivotal moment ahead of the first presidential debate Tuesday and weeks before a divisive election against Democrat Joe Biden.

Speaking at a news conference Sunday at the White House, Trump dismissed the report as "fake news" and maintained he has paid taxes, though he gave no specifics. He also vowed that information about his taxes "will all be revealed," but he offered no timeline for the disclosure and made similar promises during the 2016 campaign on which he never followed through.

In fact, the president has fielded court challenges against those seeking access to his returns, including the U.S. House, which is suing to get Trump's tax returns as part of congressional oversight.

During his first two years as president, Trump received $73 million from foreign operations, which in addition to his golf properties in Scotland and Ireland included $3 million from the Philippines, $2.3 million from India and $1 million from Turkey, among other nations. The president in 2017 paid $145,400 in taxes in India and $156,824 in the Philippines, compared to just $750 in U.S. income taxes. The Times said the tax records did not reveal any unreported connections to Russia.

Trump found multiple ways to reduce his tax bills. He has taken tax deductions on personal expenses such as housing, aircraft and $70,000 to style his hair while he filmed "The Apprentice." Losses in the property businesses solely owned and managed by Trump appear to have offset income from his stake in "The Apprentice" and other entities with multiple owners.

During the first two years of his presidency, Trump relied on business tax credits to reduce his tax obligations. The Times said $9.7 million worth of business investment credits that were submitted after Trump requested an extension to file his taxes allowed him to offset his obligations and pay just $750 each in 2016 and 2017.

AP

President Donald Trump speaking during a news conference at the White House, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020, in Washington.

Arrests in Portland protest follow fairly calm rally

PORTLAND (AP)—Several people in Portland, Oregon, were arrested in anti-police brutality protests that continued into early Sunday, hours after demonstrations ended with few reports of violence.

The protests that began Saturday night were declared an unlawful assembly and police began forcing demonstrators out after objects were thrown at officers, including full drink cans, firecrackers and rocks, police said.

Hundreds of people had gathered at demonstrations in the downtown area of Oregon's largest city when the unlawful assembly was announced just before midnight.

Images showed protesters crowded in and around a park near the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse—the same courthouse that had been the scene of nightly unrest over the summer. A protester was seen burning an American flag.

Video posted by KOIN-TV showed officers warn that protesters who hurl projectiles will be subject to arrest.

Several arrests were made, police said, but a specific number was not immediately available. One man broke away from officers and ran two blocks with his hands in zip-tie cuffs before he was recaptured by police. Police also seized bear spray, a baton and a drone in separate stops or arrests.

Videos also showed police grabbing a news photographer and pushing him to ground, as he was trying to document them tackling and detaining a person on a sidewalk, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. Freelance photographer John Rudoff was wearing a helmet with "PRESS" stickers affixed to it. He told the outlet on Sunday that he's "physically OK but am quite annoyed."

Another online video showed an officer apparently deploying a chemical spray in the face of a man who was yelling at police and waving a sign toward them. Police didn't immediately respond to The Oregonian/OregonLive's request for comment about either incident.

The crowd had largely dispersed by early Sunday morning, police said.

Protesters also marched through Seattle on Saturday, with police reporting 10 arrests, scattered property damage and short-lived fires, the Seattle Times reported.

The unrest came just hours after a right-wing rally and counterprotesters largely dispersed without serious violence Saturday afternoon. Although, police were investigating an assault after one person who was documenting the event was pushed to the ground and kicked in the face.

Separately, police said a criminal citation was issued after officials confiscated firearms, paintball guns, baseball bats and shields from a pickup truck that was initially stopped for having obscured license plates as it left the rally.

Oregon State Police Superintendent Travis Hampton and Multnomah County Sheriff Mike Reese praised the minimal violence in a joint statement late Saturday.

"Our Unified Command worked well to prevent violence before it started," Hampton said in the statement. "Law enforcement officers performed a number of traffic stops and took weapons off the streets."

"On Saturday, Oregonians denounced hate, racism and violence," Reese stated, adding that, "the Unified Command was able to help keep the peace."

Several hundred people, dozens of them wearing militarized body armor, gathered to support President Donald Trump and his "law and order" reelection campaign Saturday afternoon. The attendance was far fewer than the 10,000 organizers had expected after tensions boiled over nationwide following the decision not to charge officers in Louisville, Kentucky, for killing Breonna Taylor.

Louisville protests continue in Breonna Taylor's name

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—A crowd marched in Louisville's streets chanting "Breonna Taylor, say her name" on Sunday evening, the fifth night of protests after a grand jury declined to charge officers in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor.

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer urged people to begin heading home about an hour before the curfew was set to begin at 9 p.m. as the protesters continued to march. Earlier in the day, people were gathered at Jefferson Square Park, which has come to be called "Breonna's park" by demonstrators, as speakers condemned the grand jury's decision, The Courier Journal reported.

On Saturday, a diverse crowd of hundreds marched chanting "Black Lives Matter" and "No justice, no peace" as cars honked along a busy downtown artery in this Kentucky city that has seen more than 120 days of demonstrations over the death of the 26-year-old Black woman in a police raid gone wrong.

A few police cars followed behind, with officers telling protesters to stay on the sidewalk and out of the street before the march ended on Saturday. Many briefly ended up back at a downtown square that has been a focal point of protests.

But as a 9 p.m. curfew time approached, a police loudspeaker announced that anyone who remained in the park would be arrested for a curfew violation. The square emptied out as people departed, many dispersing though one group headed to a nearby church where protesters had found refuge on previous nights.

As a crowd gathered outside the First Unitarian Church late Saturday, fires were set in a street nearby after 11 p.m. Police said fireworks burned a car, and windows had been broken at Spalding University and Presentation Academy buildings close by.

Some demonstrators were seen with makeshift shields made of plywood. Others took shelter inside the church, which closed its doors around midnight.

About 100 people remained inside the church, Jud Hendrix, executive director of Interfaith Paths to Peace, told WDRB-TV around 1 a.m. Sunday. Hendrix said he was working with police to determine if people could leave the church to go home without being arrested.

Asia

India COVID-19 cases reach 6M

AP
Migrant laborers from other states looking for work gather on a street on the outskirts of Jammu, India, Sunday, Sept.27, 2020.

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's confirmed coronavirus tally reached 6 million cases on Monday, keeping the country second to the United States in number of reported cases since the pandemic began.

The Health Ministry reported 82,170 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, driving the overall tally to 60,74,703. At least 1,039 deaths were also recorded in the same period, taking total fatalities up to 95,542.

New infections in India are currently being reported faster than anywhere else in the world. The world's second-most populous country is expected to become the pandemic's worst-hit country in coming weeks, surpassing the U.S., where more than 7.1 million infections have been reported.

In the past week, nearly one in every three new infections reported in the world and one in every five reported coronavirus deaths came from India, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. While most of India's deaths remain concentrated in its large cities, smaller urban centers across the country's vast landscape are also reporting a surge in infections.

Yet even as infections mount, India has the highest number of recovered patients in the world. More than 5 million people have recovered from COVID-19 in India and the country's recovery rate stands at 82%, according to the Health Ministry.

Health experts have warned about the potential for the virus to spread during the upcoming religious festival season, which is marked by huge gatherings of people in temples and shopping districts. Another potential risk is an upcoming election in eastern Bihar state, where nearly 72 million people will cast votes on three days beginning next month.

At UN, Pakistani leader says India sponsors anti-Muslim hate

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday assailed India's Hindu nationalist government and its moves to cement control of Muslim-majority Kashmir, calling India a state sponsor of hatred and prejudice against Islam.

Khan said at the annual U.N. gathering of world leaders that Islamophobia rules India and threatens the nearly 200 million Muslims who live there.

"They believe that India is exclusive to Hindus and others are not equal citizens," he said in a prerecorded speech to the U.N. General Assembly, which is being held virtually amid the coronavirus pandemic.

India responded by calling Khan's remarks "a new low" in diplomacy. "We saw lies, misinformation, warmongering and malice spread through this assembly," Mijito Vinito, a diplomat with India's U.N. mission, said as the two countries traded barbed rebuttals in the assembly hall Friday night. Such exchanges between the two nuclear-armed neighbors have been common at recent U.N. General Assembly meetings.

Khan has frequently criticized the August 2019 decision by the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strip Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, scrap its separate constitution and remove inherited protections on land and jobs.

India's action and a security clampdown that followed have sparked protests. U.N.-appointed independent experts have called on India to take urgent action.

Residents of the heavily militarized Indian-controlled region of Kashmir say security forces have arrested thousands of young men, raided people's homes, inflicted beatings and electric shocks, and threatened to take away and marry their female relatives. Thousands of protesters over the past five years have been wounded by shotgun pellets, including hundreds blinded in one or both eyes. For seven months, until March, the area was under a communications blackout, with social media and internet access banned.

"The international community must investigate these grave violations and prosecute the Indian civil and military personnel involved in state terrorism and serious crimes against humanity," Khan said.

Vinito retorted later: "The leader of Pakistan today called for those who incite hate and violence to be outlawed. But, as he went on, we were left wondering, was he referring to himself?"

The larger Kashmir region is split between India and Pakistan, which have fought two wars over the territory. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training insurgents fighting for Kashmir's independence from India. Pakistan denies the charge and says it offers only diplomatic and moral support to the rebels.

Khan, as he did in his speech before the world body last year, also condemned the targeting of Muslims in many countries. He noted provocations and incitement, such as the Quran being burned or offensive depictions of the Prophet Muhammad, that took place "in the name of free speech."

World

Navalny recovering faster than expected

BERLIN (AP)—Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny is recovering from the suspected assassination attempt last month faster than expected, one of his aides said Sunday.

Navalny, who collapsed on a plane from Siberia to Moscow on Aug. 20 and spent nearly three weeks in a coma, was discharged last week from the Berlin hospital where he was being treated. His doctors said that based on Navalny's progress a "complete recovery is possible."

"He is doing much better, I would say unexpectedly better," Leonid Volkov, Navalny's chief of staff, told German broadcaster RTL. "I think the recovery is really faster than expected, and of course this is good news that makes us very happy."

Navalny, a longtime foe of Russian President Vladimir Putin, is still receiving outpatient treatment and remains under close protection, Volkov said.

Navalny

"I personally don't think that another attack can happen in Berlin, but we can see that the personal security has a different opinion," he said. "He is guarded quite heavily."

Germany authorities have said Navalny was poisoned with a powerful nerve agent and called on Russia to investigate the attack that occurred on its territory.

The presence of the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok in Navalny's samples was corroborated by labs in France and Sweden. But Russia has resisted international pressure to launch a criminal investigation, saying its own tests found no trace of poisonous substances in the opposition leader's system.

The poisoning "had so many negative consequences for the Kremlin," said Volkov, adding that in his opinion the attempted assassination couldn't have occurred without Putin's approval.

Navalny has said that he intends to return to Russia to resume his work.

"He understands the risks quite well, and we are supposed to think somehow how he can continue living in Russia," Volkov told RTL. "It will not be so easy and many things will change, for sure, to reduce the probability of a second attack."

UK university students furious over virus restrictions

LONDON (AP)—As authorities sought to contain COVID-19 outbreaks at British universities Sunday, some students complained they were being "imprisoned" in their dormitories and politicians debated whether young people should be allowed to go home for Christmas.

Students at universities in Glasgow, Manchester and Edinburgh—who have returned to campus in the past few weeks—are being asked to self-isolate in their residence halls, with security guards at some schools preventing young people from leaving their buildings.

While students at Glasgow University greeted the lockdown with humor, posting signs asking passersby to "send beer," those in Manchester had a darker message, taping "HMP MMU" in their windows, suggesting the dormitory had become "Her Majesty's Prison Manchester Metropolitan University."

Dominic Waddell, 21, a first-year filmmaking student at MMU, said some students didn't even receive emails informing them about the lockdown.

"There was a security guard that just arrived at the gate of our accommodation and he wasn't letting anybody leave, not really explaining what was going on," Waddell said. "They're saying the safety and well-being of our students and staff and the local community is our top priority, but it doesn't really seem like that if they haven't allowed us time to prepare for this."

The lockdowns come as more students headed back to campuses across the country, and some observers criticized the government's decision to reopen universities despite forecasts that this would lead to virus outbreaks. The government defended the decision, saying it had put clear guidelines in place to protect students and staff.

"Young people have paid a huge price in this crisis. I think it's only fair to try to get them back," Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden told the BBC's Andrew Marr program.

Meanwhile, Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, warned that up to 1 million young people may need "urgent help" to protect their futures from the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic. The social and economic crisis created by the coronavirus is reminiscent of the upheavals of the 1970s, when youth unemployment was one of the most pressing issues facing British society, he said.

"There has never been a time as uniquely challenging as the present, when the pandemic has left perhaps another million young people needing urgent help to protect their futures," the Prince of Wales wrote in the Sunday Telegraph. "The task ahead is unquestionably vast, but it is not insurmountable."

The controversy is the latest to embroil Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government as the spread of COVID-19 accelerates across the U.K. Johnson last week announced a 10 p.m. curfew on bars and restaurants throughout England, along with other restrictions on social interactions, but many health experts said the measures didn't go far enough.

Lawmakers and scientists have criticized Johnson's Conservative government for problems with the national test-and-trace program that was supposed to help control the spread of the disease and reduce the need for limits on social interactions.

Young people have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic, even though they are less likely to become seriously ill. The closure of schools during the spring coronavirus lockdown canceled national achievement tests in Britain and threw university admissions into disarray. First-year students have had to forego social events seen as a rite of passage at the start of their college careers, and the job prospects for graduates look bleak as unemployment rises.

Overdrive

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AUTO REVIEW:

Cheap frills make the 2020 Nissan Sentra a little luxury ride

Have you ever noticed that all apartment rentals are marketed as luxury apartments, even though they're not? My grandmother lived in an apartment building with a doorman, and a large swimming pool with private cabanas. Its lobby contained a market, a florist, a beauty parlor, a restaurant and bar, a pharmacy, and a dry cleaner. Most new "luxury" apartments offer nothing even close to this, beyond a gym.

Certainly luxury is an overused word, but the concept is simple: A luxury product or service make our lives easier, even enjoyable, and wears a hefty price tag that ensures its exclusivity. But this idea is being challenged in the auto industry, where the technology one might associate with a luxury car—heated seats, heated steering wheel, a high-end audio system, an infotainment touchscreen with high-end audio, and a generous array of driver assistance safety systems—are available on all cars regardless of price. So what does it say about luxury products when the same benefits are attainable without a hefty price tag? Is luxury dead, or is it merely being democratized?

Such questions arise from the redesigned 2020 Nissan Sentra SR, a compact sedan competing in a class brimming with worthy competitors. Perhaps this is why the Sentra's apparel is far more trendy for 2020, mimicking the appearance of the larger Altima and Maxima. And buyers can choose a Sentra with two-tone paint—a $595 option—which makes for a striking look, one that belies its price.

Offered in ascending S, SV and SR trim, the Sentra can be fitted like a little luxury car, especially if you opt for the SR and its $2,170 Premium Package, which adds to the Sentra's appealing aesthetics with LED headlights, power sliding glass moonroof, heated steering wheel, heated front seats, leatherette seats, power driver's seat with power lumbar, eight-speaker Bose Premium Audio System, 360-degree view monitor, auto-dimming rearview mirror, and illuminated visor vanity mirrors. Nissan provides USB-A, USB-C, auxiliary, and 12-volt plugs as well as standard Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and a standard 7-inch or optional 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system that's very easy to use, a luxury that can't be said of the clunky system used in pricier Nissans. There's no navigation, but most folks use their smartphones for that anyway.

It's all set in a roomy cabin is filled with impressive detailing, particularly the stitching on the flat-bottom steering wheel, shifter cover, instrument panel, center console and seats. Although materials feel neither opulent nor cheap, there are soft-touch materials where you expect them to offset the hard plastic used elsewhere. Round air vents add a distinctive design touch, while a $500 Lighting Package adds ambient interior lighting and exterior ground lighting. And the center console bin is huge.

But the ultimate indulgence is the Sentra's unexpectedly room cabin that provides good head and legroom up front, and surprisingly good leg and foot space in the rear, although headroom is compromised somewhat by the car's styling. And the trunk is impressively expansive considering the size of the car.

If all of this is not enough to move you, perhaps this will be: the Sentra's double-overhead-cam 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine mated to a continuously-variable automatic transmission that develops 149 horsepower, a 20% increase from 2019. Power is fairly good, but the CVT transmission feels reluctant to let loose unless things are already boiling. The flipside of this is good fuel economy of 31 mpg. Remarkably, there's no engine vibration at idle, although the engine gets raucous when revved. But it sounds great.

While the Sentra SR is no sports sedan in training, it's a satisfying small sedan to drive. The steering is nicely weighted and returns some road feel. The cabin is astonishingly quiet, more so than cars at twice the price. Ride is fairly absorbent, although, like any compact, the worst road shocks bang through. Body lean is evident in corners, but body motions are very well controlled. There's still plenty of grip and the Sentra still provides enough eagerness to make it an unexpectedly fun car to drive. Credit the new multilink independent rear suspension that replaces the old torsion-beam suspension. And, should you get in over your head, you'll find an impressive array of standard driver assist technologies, including automatic emergency braking with pedestrian detection, blind spot warning, rear cross traffic alert, lane departure warning, high beam assist and rear automatic braking.

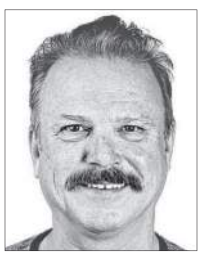
It proves that you don't have to live a life of deprivation to obtain an affordable, roomy sedan with the sort of options that would have been luxury league just a decade ago. And it comes wrapped in a package that eschews the dowdiness that has been a Sentra trait for far too long. The 2020 Nissan Sentra is a tempting package for the price, a car that delivers a level of equipment, style and driving satisfaction that would have once classified it as a luxury car. Its quiet, comfortable persona only adds to the illusion.

No, the 2020 Nissan Sentra isn't a luxury car, even if it has most of the hallmarks. Consider it a secret indulgence. I promise not to tell.

(NISSAN/TNS)
The 2020 Nissan Sentra's new body is about 2 inches lower and 2 inches wider than the previous generation.

Motormouth: Power window problem

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest*. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: I have a 2002 Buick Century Limited in excellent condition. I literally bought it two years ago from a little old lady who had only driven it 11,000 miles. It, however, has a vexing problem. The power windows only work occasionally. The rear ones will not go down, the passenger side window usually does, and the driver's window only seems to work when the temperature is 65 degrees or cooler outside. I replaced the arm rest switch panel and checked the fuses, but the same problem has persisted. Any ideas?

—L.L., Beecher, Ill.

A: The problem may not be in the electrical system, at least not in the switches. Due to lack of use, the window lift mechanism (the regulator) may require more oomph than the motors can supply. When that happens, the motors can overheat and fail. Perhaps the motors are already damaged. If the motors demand too much current, circuit breakers open. In many cases, the circuit breakers will reset after resting a while as things cool.

Q: My wife's 2017 BMW coupe sits outside 24/7 in South Florida. Every two or three days we have to clean the inside of the windshield from what I believe to be outgassing. Is that the most likely cause? If so, how do you prevent outgassing from fogging the windshield?

—R.H., Plantation, Fla.

A: Yes, it is most likely the cause. You could use one of the many interior protection products. Most are available as sprays or wipes. That may slow down the outgassing a bit. Another option is a dashboard cover. It is similar to the car's carpet, custom made for your vehicle, including cutouts for vents, sensors, speakers and other stuff.

Q: From my experience in fixing nail punctures in my shop, it was mostly rear tires that suffered. As the front tire runs over the horizontal nail, it flips up in the air just in time for the rear tire to "nail it."

—J.B., West Cornwall, Conn.

A: You are one among the teeming masses who wrote in and described this phenomenon. It is one of those things I would like to view in slow motion.

Q: We've had lots of car thefts in our area lately, and we saw a magazine article that said keyless entry fobs can be hacked or compromised by crooks in pairs using a fairly simple device to pick up the signal from your fob while you're away from your car and then relaying it to their buddy who's standing next to your car, allowing that person to unlock the door. Does this mean keyless entry fobs are always transmitting a signal? The magazine article recommended buying a Faraday Cage/RFID blocking pouch to keep your fob in. Any thoughts or opinions?

—P.B., Hudson, Wisc.

A: There are memes about bad guys using signal amplifiers to intercept the signal from your smart key fob to unlock your car and stealing your stuff. Keep your good stuff out of sight. There is a low energy signal continuously emitted. I do not think this is a major problem, but if you are the kind of guy who wears a tin foil hat, you may want to get a Faraday pouch in which to store your fob, (and perhaps a hat, too). It is essentially a metal mesh fabric that blocks electrical signals.

Life & Style

Sculpture of John Paul II with rock, red water makes waves

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A new statue that depicts the late pope St. John Paul II throwing a boulder into red water has provoked debate in his native Poland and revived memories of a 1999 Italian sculpture that showed him crushed under a meteorite, to which the new work was intended as a counter-statement.

The statue by Polish artist Jerzy Kalina, titled "Poisoned Well," was inaugurated Thursday in front of Warsaw's National Museum to mark 100 years since the much-loved pope's birth on May 18, 1920.

Kalina, 76, said the installation in the museum's fountain relates to John Paul II's efforts in the 1980s to help free Poland from communism, which is symbolized by the red color the water has from a red fabric placed on the fountain's bottom.

The artist, the creator of many works dealing with the Catholic faith and church, said he also wanted to send a "warning against multiplying forms of red revolution" and encourage the return to the "clear well." He was apparently referring to the weakening of faith and religion in Poland.

AP

Visitors to the National Museum walk past a new statue of the late pope, St. John Paul II, throwing a stone at a "Poisoned Well" just hours before its official inauguration in the museum yard in Warsaw, Poland, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020.

But some critics associated the art work with blood and violence. The sculpture also drew ridicule on social media, with some commenters comparing the life-sized likeness of the canonized pope toting a rock to a cartoon figure.

The museum said the installation was Kalin's response to "La Nona Ora," Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan's sculpture that showed the pope as "feeble old man" pinned to the ground by a huge meteorite.

Cattelan's work, which was displayed in Warsaw in 2000, was seen as disrespectful and provoked a huge outcry.

Kalina said at the inauguration ceremony for his installation that he had been angry with himself for not responding to "Cattelan's provocation" sooner.

"But now I have opposed Cattelan's pope, crushed under a huge boulder, a helpless pope, with a figure of a strong pope, a strongman, who lifts the boulder over his head and is ready to hurl it into the waters of the poisoned well of a symbolic red hue," Kalina said.

Kalina also created a monument to the victims of the 2010 plane crash in Smolensk, Russia, that killed Polish President Lech Kaczynski and 95 other people.

Attenborough gives shark tooth to 7-year-old Prince George

LONDON (AP)—Veteran broadcaster and naturalist David Attenborough has given Britain's Prince George a giant shark tooth fossil after a private viewing of his new documentary at Kensington Palace.

Photos released by the palace showed the 7-year-old prince looking intrigued as he looked at the tooth from a carcharocles megalodon, a species that lived more than 3 million years ago and was three times the size of modern great white sharks.

Attenborough, 94, found the tooth during a family holiday to Malta in the late 1960s.

Attenborough, who spent his childhood collecting fossils and other natural specimens, visited the palace for a private viewing of his new environmental documentary with George's father, Prince William.

The film, "David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet," is a personal reflection on his career as a naturalist and the changes he has seen in the natural world during his lifetime.

Attenborough has been making nature documentaries since the 1950s and helped underscore the global threat posed by plastic waste in his 2017 series "Blue Planet II."

William is second in line to the British throne after his father, Prince Charles, and George is third in line.

Queen Elizabeth II to trim costs as COVID-19 hits income

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and her family are facing a 35 million pound ($45 million) hit from the coronavirus pandemic, partly due to a shortage of tourists, the monarch's money-manager said Friday.

Releasing the royal household's annual accounts, Keeper of the Privy Purse Michael Stevens said a lack of income from visitors to royal buildings was likely to bring a general funding shortfall of 15 million pounds ($19 million) over three years.

He said the impact of the pandemic is also likely to cause a 20 million-pound ($25.4 million) shortfall in a 10-year, 369-million-pound program to replace antiquated heating, plumbing and wiring at Buckingham Palace, the queen's London home.

Officials have said the palace's aging infrastructure, which had its last major upgrade after World War II, is at risk of a catastrophic failure if it's not replaced.

Stevens said the royal household would not ask for more government money but would "look to manage the impact through our own efforts and efficiencies."

Alexie, Pilkey books among most 'challenged' of past decade

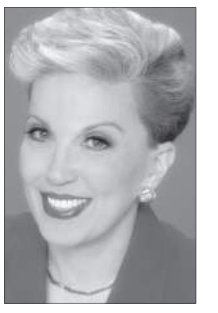
NEW YORK (AP)—Toni Morrison is on the list. So are John Green and Harper Lee. And John Steinbeck and Margaret Atwood. All wrote books that were among the 100 most subjected to censorship efforts over the past decade, as compiled by the American Library Association.

Sherman Alexie's prize-winning "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" came in at No. 1, followed by Dav Pilkey's "Captain Underpants" picture book series and Jay Asher's young adult novel "Thirteen Reasons Why." Objections raised by parents and other community members have ranged from explicit language and depictions of drug use in Alexie's novel to Asher's theme of suicide.

"A lot of the books on the list also reflect a growing trend in recent years to challenge books by people of color and books from the LGBTQ community," says Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the library association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. Examples include Morrison's "The Bluest Eye," about a Black girl raped by her father; Alex Gino's "George," about a transgender child; and Justin Richardson's and Peter Parnell's picture book about two gay penguins, "And Tango Makes Three."

Many reach out to offer help to grieving widower

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to the grieving widower "In Need of Someone" (June 22) was spot on. I met my husband when I was 14. We married at 18, and he died when he was 44. After his death, I had no idea how to be a person because I had always been a partner.

In the early years, I cried every day and was searching, like "In Need," to fill that empty spot in my life. Then one day, I started figuring out what to do about the other holes in my life.

I had not been the breadwinner, so my income was poverty-level. I had no college and not a lot of work experience. I knew if I was going to be able to keep my house and put my kids in college, I had to work on these other holes. In the process of school, working three jobs and keeping up with life, I realized I had never thought about what was important to ME.

Over the years I have seen several close friends lose partners and go through exactly what "In Need" and I have experienced. Your advice is so true. Volunteer. Get a part-time job doing something you like or a job that will just give you someone to talk to.

Go to a support group, go to a church, but do not get into a serious relationship, because if you do, you will go from one dependent situation to another. Every person I know who went right into another relationship later regretted it. The new person is not your lost partner, never will be and will never measure up. Go into a relationship only if you are willing to let the past go and are willing to change YOU.

Be open to another opinion and a new lifestyle. You might like doing something you never thought you would see yourself doing before. You are not going to know unless you try. Do not look for a Band-Aid to fix the emptiness. Look for a seed to plant and nurture, and be prepared to be amazed at the beauty that will be opened up to you.

SHELLY IN ILLINOIS

DEAR SHELLY: Thank you for sharing the important life lessons you have learned. Other caring readers also responded to encourage "In Need" as he moves forward:

DEAR ABBY: I lost my husband after 30 years together. I'm still working on getting "from hollow to whole," as "In Need" wrote. Your advice that he should "figure out the boundary between where you left off and your wife began" is an important insight. I've never heard this from a grief counselor, but it's exactly what I've been trying to do for the past three months. You can't live with someone else if you can't live with yourself.

I'm working on becoming whole again, and it's happening slowly. "In Need" should do the same. It may take longer, but it works better.

TAMMY IN OREGON

DEAR ABBY: "In Need" should get some hobbies. If I met a nice person and was considering pursuing a relationship and I found out he had no hobbies, no outside interests or friends beyond his late spouse, I would be gone. Among my friends, I don't know a single one who would want a relationship with someone whose life was totally wrapped up in his spouse and "needed" a replacement.

NANCY IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR ABBY: After my wife died, I joined Widowed Information and Consultation Services in my home state. It was a wonderful way to be with others who had lost their mates, and it helped me realize I wasn't the only one going through this.

Also, I decided to say "yes" to any invitations from friends to join them for dinner or a social gathering. Being around others helped to stave off the loneliness. In addition, I decided to travel by myself to Europe for a month, joining a group tour. I eventually found a wonderful lady, also a widow, and we have been married 15 years.

ROBERT IN WASHINGTON

DEAR ABBY: "In Need" should consider adopting a pet, a dog or cat, that will love him unconditionally. Because of my pets, I am never alone, always loved and have creatures who depend on me. It might make the days ahead easier for that widower. I wish him the best.

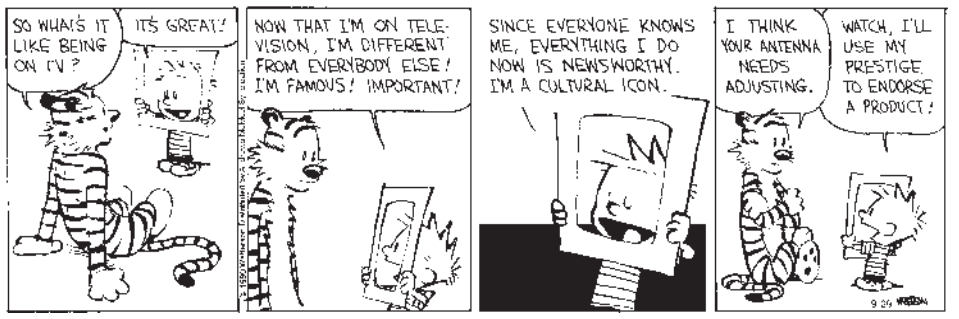
MICHAEL IN THE MIDWEST

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

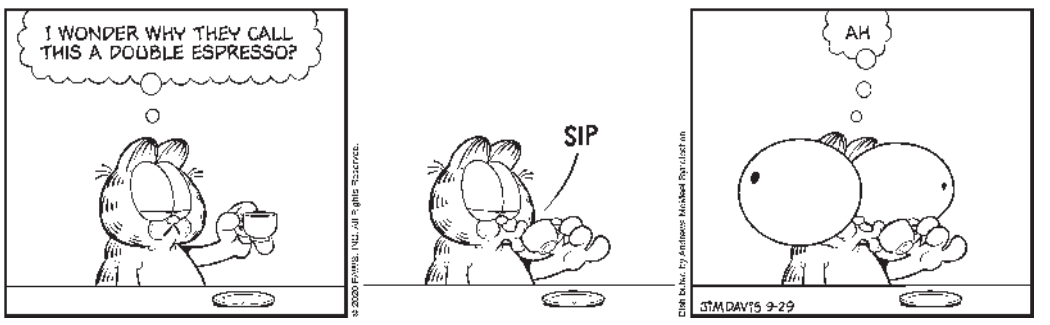
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SO WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING ON TV?
IT'S GREAT!
NOW THAT I'M ON TELEVISION, I'M DIFFERENT FROM EVERYBODY ELSE! I'M FAMOUS! IMPORTANT!
SINCE EVERYONE KNOWS ME, EVERYTHING I DO NOW IS NEWSWORTHY. I'M A CULTURAL ICON.
I THINK YOUR ANTENNA NEEDS ADJUSTING.
WATCH, I'LL USE MY PRESTIGE TO ENDORSE A PRODUCT!

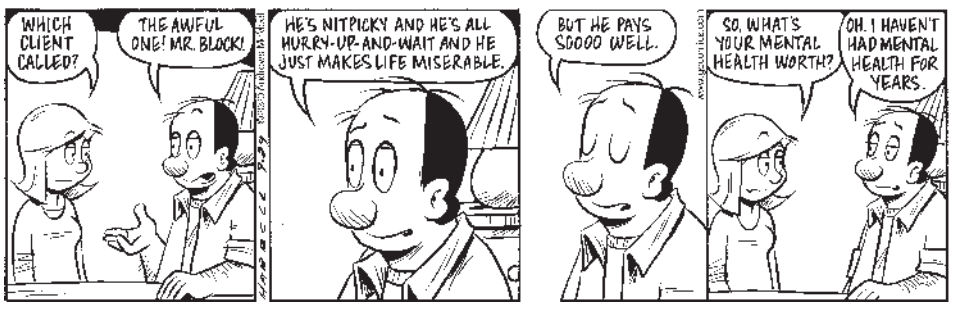
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHICH CLIENT CALLED?
THE AWFUL ONE! MR. BLOCK!
HE'S NITPICKY AND HE'S ALL HURRY-UP-AND-WAIT AND HE JUST MAKES LIFE MISERABLE.
BUT HE PAYS SOOOO WELL.
SO, WHAT'S YOUR MENTAL HEALTH WORTH?
OH, I HAVEN'T HAD MENTAL HEALTH FOR YEARS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHY DO BIRDS SUDDENLY APPEAR...
EVERY TIME, YOU ARE YEARRR
JUST LIKE ME, THEY LONG TO BE...
SEE? THE CARPENTERS HELP MY ROAD RAGE.
THERE'S A KEY POPPING OUT OF YOUR FOREHEAD.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

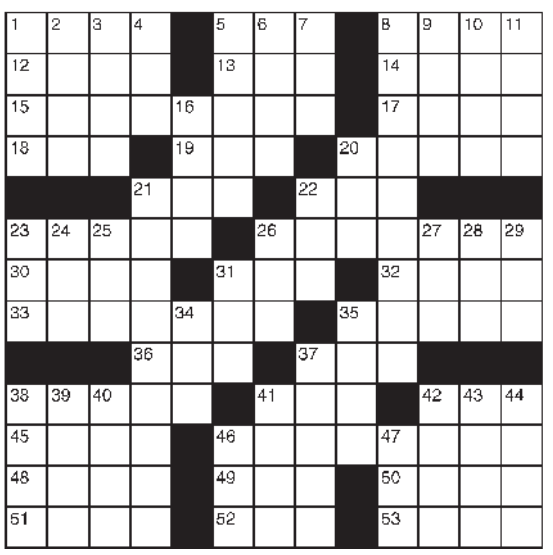
ACROSS
1 Yonder item
5 Pair
8 Colorless
12 Billions of years
13 Ecol. watchdog
14 Nevada city
15 Red Mustang convertible, for some
17 Black, in verse
18 Cutting tool
19 Scrap
20 Nasality
21 Calendar box
22 Twitch
23 "You're So Vain" singer
26 Cure-all
30 Scrambled wd.
31 Mess up
32 "The Addams Family" actor Julia
33 Louis Armstrong's nickname
35 Category
36 Feedbag bit
37 Coquettish
38 Honeycomb compartments
41 Bro or sis
42 Savings plan acronym
45 Skater's leap
46 Annual tennis championship
48 — colada
49 Frazier foe
50 Cincinnati team
51 Luminary
52 Actor/director Brooks
53 Eyelid woe

DOWN
1 Turner and Danson
2 Circle dance
3 From the top
4 Airport screening org.
5 Belittle
6 — the crack of dawn
7 Crew tool
8 "The Price Is Right" host
9 Ms. McEntire
10 Soon, poetically
11 Head shop purchase
16 Lament
20 Badge metal
21 Boxer's neckband
22 Sailor
23 Airline to Sweden
24 — jiffy
25 Yoga pad
26 Expert
27 Soup container
28 Where Ger. is
29 Pub order
31 911 responder
34 Possesses
35 Asian desert
37 Mannerly
38 Beanies
39 Way out
40 Sultry Horne
41 Auction
42 "Law & Order: SVU" actor
43 Former NYC mayor Giuliani
44 Church section
46 Weir
47 Soon-to-be grads

Solution time: 22 mins.

I	M	P			E	S	C		L	I	Z	A
N	C	A	T		M	P	H			D	E	S
C	A	S	H		T	A	I		G	O	N	E
A	L	O	L	D		M	E	S	H			
			N	O	S		F	I	B		T	
H	A	N	D		E	S		S	N	A	R	K
A	L	O	E		E	A	R			B	E	T
R	E	T	R	Y		W	I	T	N	E	S	S
I	C	E	B	A	G		B	E	G			
			I	M	A	X		A	B	B	O	T
J	E	E	F		B	R	A		U	L	N	A
U	S	E	D		L	A	W		G	E	A	H
G	E	L	S		E	Y	E			D	N	A

Yesterday's answer 9-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Durant, 32; Roger Bart, 58; Bryant Gumbel, 72; Jerry Lee Lewis, 85.

Happy Birthday: Pay attention to expiration dates, personal documents and money matters. Aim to be fully prepared to take on an unexpected change. Leave nothing to chance, and it will put your mind at ease. A disconnect with someone you've known a long time will encourage you to take control and do things your way. Romance and a lifestyle change are favored. Your numbers are 7, 15, 23, 29, 32, 46, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take pride in what you do. You will be judged by what you complete and what you leave unfinished. Put a plan in place that will ensure you take care of business before moving on to preferable pastimes. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A change of mind will lead to benefits. Follow your gut feeling when dealing with work-related situations. Refuse to put your health at risk. Protect children and those most vulnerable. Stand up for your rights. Set a good example. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Align yourself with like-minded people. There is safety and strength in numbers. If you want to bring about change, you have to fight for what you want. Don't let a smooth-talking outsider take advantage of you or your loved ones. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Strive to make a change that allows you to use creative skills to get ahead. A partnership will change the way you view life and how you live. Don't settle for less when a slight adjustment can make your experience better. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep a close watch over your possessions, finances and domestic situation. Aim to please, but not at the expense of your health or position. Anger will not help you get your way, but preparation and organization will. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Different directions will entice you. Listen to what others say, and you'll get a sense of what will work in your favor. A systematic move will help build a strong base to implement the changes you want to bring about. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't argue over something you cannot change. Consider every angle, and you will recognize how best to get around someone who is trying to take advantage of you. Focus on self-improvement and meaningful relationships. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Bring about the changes that make you happy. Let go of situations that are holding you back or making you miserable. Use your imagination, and create a plan to help you achieve a lifestyle geared toward personal growth and inner peace. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Think twice before you share personal information. Someone will be searching for a way to make you look bad. An emotional situation will escalate if you act on an assumption or get involved in gossip. Concentrate on enlightenment. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* It's OK to do things differently. A unique idea will encourage you to diversify and use your skills and knowledge to up your income. A domestic change will push you to make adjustments that will bring you peace of mind. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Evaluate your lifestyle, relationships with others and the ways you keep fit. Setting up a routine will encourage better health, proper diet and achieving your goals. Putting romance back in your life will bring you closer to someone you love. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Use your imagination, strive to be unique and don't be afraid to share your thoughts and insights into trends. A change will improve your vision regarding how you handle your money, health and contractual matters. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, intense and unpredictable. You are assertive and energetic.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3		2	4		8	5		6
4	7						1	9
	8						2	
			6		9			
		5				1		
			7		4			
	4						9	
1	2						5	8
9		8	2		7	3		1

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	5	1	9	4	8	3	7	2
9	2	8	3	7	6	5	4	1
4	3	7	5	2	1	8	9	6
8	9	5	6	1	2	7	3	4
2	4	3	7	9	5	1	6	8
1	7	6	8	3	4	2	5	9
7	1	4	2	6	3	9	8	5
3	8	2	4	5	9	6	1	7
5	6	9	1	8	7	4	2	3

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

TABLE CRUMBERS **Solution: 7 letters**

I	T	S	I	W	T	C	A	R	R	I	E	D	P	J
N	D	S	C	H	H	S	D	I	N	I	N	G	O	H
S	L	L	G	R	S	H	U	I	R	A	R	H	O	A
I	A	I	O	E	T	S	C	C	T	A	N	L	C	N
D	T	M	R	G	E	K	U	P	S	H	D	Q	S	D
E	E	P	N	R	E	R	O	P	E	S	U	O	P	Y
N	M	E	S	L	V	C	M	N	S	A	G	M	E	D
I	L	R	D	E	K	E	R	N	L	O	A	D	B	I
H	L	O	E	E	S	Y	O	I	L	E	A	D	R	S
C	A	M	T	S	M	R	T	A	B	L	E	T	O	P
A	V	I	A	I	T	Y	U	U	B	B	S	O	U	O
M	O	T	L	A	S	T	S	O	R	Ⓟ	I	O	N	S
Y	M	L	P	E	L	C	R	I	C	N	Ⓐ	L	D	I
A	E	A	F	I	N	I	S	H	E	S	R	Ⓝ	E	N
R	R	B	R	U	S	H	R	S	E	H	S	I	D	G

© 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 9/29

Baltimore, Blade, Brush, Carried, Chrome, Circle, Courses, Curve, Debris, Dining, Dishes, Disposing, Finishes, Gold, Grasp, Handy, Holds, Impress, Inside, John Henry, Lasts, Length, Load, Logos, Machine, Mess, Metal, Miller, Nickel, Pan, Patrons, Plated, Pocket, Quality, Raise, Ray, Removal, Rounded, Scoop, Tabletop, Thumb, Tight, Tool, Turn, Twist, Users

Yesterday's Answer: Bar Stools

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60** order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Back to the Finals: Heat oust Celtics

AP
Miami Heat's Bam Adebayo (13) is tied up by Boston Celtics' Daniel Theis (27) during the second half of an NBA conference final playoff game Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Adebayo was fouled on the play.

FLORIDA (AP)—It was exactly one year ago Sunday when Jimmy Butler walked into the Miami Heat practice gym, took a seat on a makeshift stage and said he wanted to be part of the team's next title run.

He'll have that chance.

The Heat are going to the NBA Finals—surprising many, perhaps, but not themselves. Bam Adebayo scored a season-high 32 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, Butler scored 22 points and the Heat won the Eastern Conference finals for the sixth time by topping the Boston Celtics 125-113 on Sunday night.

"A great series. It was so competitive," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I mean, in many ways, this was a seven-game series, just how competitive it was. Extremely well-coached and well-put together and we are just honored to be a part of that type of series in the conference finals, and then we get an opportunity for the next stage. Our guys will look forward to it. We're going to try to enjoy it for a night."

The Heat won the series 4-2—and now, waiting on that next stage to decide the NBA title, are LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers. Game 1 is Wednesday night.

Tyler Herro scored 19 points, Duncan Robinson and Andre Iguodala each had 15 and Goran Dragic added 13 for the Heat.

"We deserve to be here," Dragic said.

Jaylen Brown scored 26 points, Jayson Tatum had 24 and a career-high 11 assists, and Marcus Smart and Kemba Walker each scored 20 points for Boston—which fell in the East finals for the third time in the last four seasons.

"Miami deserves a lot of credit," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "They're super physical, super tough, very, very savvy. I think they're the best team in the East and deserve to be representing the East in the way that they have played."

Miami was down by six early in the fourth before regaining control. A 6-0 burst—Herro had the last five of those points, needing only 31 seconds to do so—tied it at 96. Boston took the lead twice more, with Adebayo answering both times, first with a dunk, then a go-ahead three-point play with 6:16 left.

He smacked the floor in celebration.

It's like they knew what was coming. They never trailed again. Herro had a pair of baskets in a 9-0 burst that put the Heat up by 10, Adebayo found Butler for a layup and a 116-102 lead everyone on the Heat bench was on their feet.

"This means everything," Herro said.

And before long, all the Celtics could do was offer their congratulations.

"Regrets, I don't have any," Walker said. "I don't have any, man. I thought we fought hard. A lot of credit to Miami. Those guys are really good."

The Heat are the only NBA franchise with six Finals appearances in the last 15 years. They're seeking their fourth title, and this chance didn't come easily.

The Heat had a 5-for-5 stretch from 3-point range in the first quarter, but otherwise struggled again from beyond the arc in the first half. They were 6 for 14 from deep in the first 24 minutes, Boston was 11 for 23 before the break and the Heat took a 62-60 lead into halftime.

And the margin remained two going into the fourth.

Iguodala's fourth 3-pointer—in as many attempts—with 4:20 left in the third put the Heat up eight, before Brown had five points in a 10-2 Boston spurt to tie it. Dragic had a go-ahead layup on Miami's final shot of the quarter and it was 88-86 Heat with 12 minutes remaining

The Celtics scored 10 of the first 12 points of the fourth, going up 96-90. From there, all Miami.

The Heat scored 35 of the game's final 52 points. The game was theirs. So was the silver trophy that conference champions get.

"Four more," Adebayo said. "That's what matters."

The Heat are now guaranteed no less than $4,399,686 for their playoff share, and that number would rise to $5,791,041 if they win the title. Udonis Haslem is the only player to be on all six Heat teams that have made the finals.

Tatum took 15 shots in the first half, the first time in his 270-game career that he's done that. He had taken 14 on four other occasions. Tatum's top four assist-total games of his career have come in the bubble.

Walker has been to the playoffs three times, and his team has been eliminated by Miami in all three of those appearances—with three different nicknames. Charlotte was still the Bobcats when the Heat swept them in the 2014 first round, the Heat rallied to beat Charlotte's then-rebranded Hornets in seven games in the 2016 first round, and now this win over the Celtics.

As Lakers advance, LeBron thinks of Kobe

FLORIDA—It was minutes before tipoff of Game 5 of the Western Conference finals Saturday night between the Los Angeles Lakers and Denver Nuggets. LeBron James was getting his last few warmup shots in.

He was all business. The laughs and smiles that he shares with teammates throughout portions of his warmup routine were long gone. James had reversed course and had the look of someone who was out for blood. All of a sudden, 6-foot-9 superstar noticed a familiar face who was observing from behind the basket, and James walked over.

"I'm going to end this tonight," he told said. "Watch!"

The world watched an astonishing closeout performance with James pouring in game highs of 38 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists in 40 minutes in a 117-107 victory as the Lakers advanced to the NBA Finals for the first time since 2010.

In a pivotal fourth quarter, James scored while defending young Nuggets star Jamal Murray. There are only a few superstars in NBA history capable of excelling at both tasks on such a stage. And with a heavy heart, James is unsettled that a particular meeting with one of those superstar players never took place.

When he announced he was signing with the Lakers in the summer of 2018, the late, great Kobe Bryant and James had plans to break bread and discuss the ins and outs of Los Angeles, the Lakers franchise and what would be expected of him upon his arrival, league sources told Yahoo Sports.

Due to the conflicting and chaotic schedules of each superstar, the two could never establish a firm date. Each time they came across one another, the meeting was brought up, but it kept getting put on the backburner.

It's something that still bothers James to this day.

"Of course, you think there's going to be time for us to get together and I understand that there are regrets in life, but I definitely wish I had that moment with him," James said. "I do remember when I decided to come here, he sent me a text right away and said, 'Welcome, brother. Welcome to the family.' That was a special moment because at the time, Laker faithful wasn't [fully in on me]. A lot of people were saying, 'Well, we might not want LeBron at this point in his career,' and, 'Is he right? Is he going to get us back [to the Finals]?' So to hear from him and get his stamp of approval, it meant a lot. I don't ever question myself, but when it's coming from Kobe, it definitely meant a lot."

At the time, they were arguably two of the busiest athletes in the world and free time wasn't always available, even while they were residing in the same area. Said James: "We have to remember not to take life and people for granted," and he expressed how it's important to slow things down every now and then.

Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven others died in a helicopter crash on Jan. 26.

James disclosed some of the questions and topics he had in mind that he never got a chance to discuss with Bryant.

"When I played in Cleveland, I grew up 35 minutes away from there, and so I kind of knew the people. When I went down to Miami, [Dwyane Wade] was able to give me the blueprint on that. But I never played for a historic franchise like the Lakers."

In what will be his 10th Finals appearance, James is hellbent on capturing his fourth title and the Lakers' 17th, which would tie the Boston Celtics for the most in NBA history.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles Lakers coach Frank Vogel was smiling when he was asked what it felt like to finally reach the NBA Finals for the first time, after getting into the league in 2001.

"I actually came in in '98," Vogel said, offering a polite correction.

Either way, the point was clear: This opportunity was a long time coming.

Phil Jackson, Pat Riley, Paul Westhead, Bill Sharman and John Kundla all won championships in their first seasons as Lakers coach, and now Vogel has the chance to join that group. The 47-year-old New Jersey native will see the finals stage for the first time this week when the Lakers face off against either the Miami Heat or the Boston Celtics.

"This career achievement is so far away from where I'm at mentally right now," Vogel said Saturday night, talking while wearing the Lakers' new Western Conference championship shirt and cap. "I'm just trying to play my part. Give our guys a plan, make sure that everybody is playing together." ***(AP/NBC)***

Coco wins debut; Wawrinka routs Murray

PARIS (AP)—Prepping in the relative warmth of a gym before heading out with leggings and long sleeves to make her French Open debut against the tournament's No. 9 seed, Coco Gauff got a pep talk from Dad.

"His goal was to become an NBA player, and he didn't make it. He told me: 'You're living your dream. Not everybody gets to do that. Just have fun on the court.' That really changed my perspective," the 16-year-old Gauff recounted. "I was really nervous going into the match. That just calmed me down. I realized it's just a tennis match. I'm doing some things that people wish they could do."

On a rather unusual start to things at Roland Garros—postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic, Day 1 arrived in September instead of May, with only 1,000 spectators allowed instead of more than 30,000 as COVID-19 cases rise in France — Gauff offered the latest proof that she can do most of what she wishes to on a tennis court.

Using forehand slices to throw off her older, more experienced opponent, and unbothered by her own 12 double-faults, Gauff stayed steady at the most crucial moments to beat Johanna Konta, 6-3, 6-3 and reach the second round. This was already Gauff's fourth victory over an opponent ranked in the Top 20.

Such a far cry from last year's French Open: Gauff failed to make it out of qualifying, while Konta was making her way to her third Grand Slam semifinal.

Soon after, Gauff had her breakthrough at Wimbledon, becoming, at 15, the youngest qualifier ever there on the way to the fourth round. She also made it to the fourth round at this year's Australian Open, beating 2019 champion Naomi Osaka en route.

Only recently was there a bit of a bump in the road for Gauff: She lost four of five matches before arriving in Paris, including a first-round exit at the U.S. Open.

"When I'm on the court, I can act like I'm used to it," she said. "When I'm off the court, I'm just happy to be here."

Gauff joked afterward about having grown up in Florida and Georgia and not being accustomed to the sort of weather this French Open is being played in, with drizzles and temperatures in the 50s Fahrenheit (low teens Celsius).

She figured she hadn't competed with so many layers of clothing on since she was 10. OK, not that long ago in the scheme of things, but still.

Konta, a 29-year-old from Britain who showed up to her news conference wearing a puffy red coat, observed: "Kind of as rainy and windy and rubbish weather like it is at home."

AP

Coco Gauff of the U.S. plays a shot against Britain's Johanna Konta in their first-round match in the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020.

Grand Slam champions collide

That Andy Murray and Stan Wawrinka were back together on Court Philippe Chatrier, all these years and operations later, was something of an accomplishment—not to mention a rare first-round matchup between past Grand Slam champions.

Only one, Wawrinka, played like it.

Having no trouble smacking his one-handed backhand and other strokes through the thick air as the fall-time French Open got going Sunday, the barrel-chested Wawrinka needed just 97 minutes to overwhelm Murray, 6-1, 6-3, 6-2.

The six games collected by Murray equaled the fewest he has managed in any of his 237 career Grand Slam matches; that also happened in a loss at Roland Garros in 2014 against 12-time champion Rafael Nadal.

"I'll need to have a long, hard think," said Murray, ranked 111th as he works his way back from two hip surgeries, "and try and understand what happened."

One big problem: He didn't serve well, putting only 36% of his first serves in play.

Another: He didn't return particularly well either and won only 25% of points in Wawrinka's service games.

Murray said those things weren't related to his artificial hip.

This was the first time two men with Grand Slam titles Murray and Wawrinka each own three such trophies—played each other in the first round at Roland Garros since Yevgeny Kafelnikov against Michael Chang in 1999, and at any major tournament since Novak Djokovic faced Juan Carlos Ferrero at Wimbledon in 2012.

Indians rally past Pirates, will face Yanks

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Indians are staying home for the first round of the postseason—and the New York Yankees are coming to town.

Carlos Santana had four RBI and delivered a go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh inning as the Indians rallied for an 8-6 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday to gain home-field advantage for their AL wild-card series.

Cleveland (35-25) finished second in the Central and grabbed the No. 4 seed in the American League playoffs when the Chicago White Sox lost to the crosstown Cubs.

"We feel proud of our city and we wanted to play here," Indians designated hitter Franmil Reyes said. "We want to give the city of Cleveland what they deserve, which is to keep winning and a championship."

The Indians, who won seven of their last eight games, host the Yankees in a best-of-three series beginning Tuesday. The opener features a prime pitching matchup, with Cy Young Award favorite Shane Bieber set to face New York ace Gerrit Cole.

Cardinals 5, Brewers 2

Harrison Bader tripled and homered to help St. Louis clinch a postseason berth on the final day of the regular season with a win over Milwaukee, and the Brewers also earned a playoff spot Sunday via help on the West Coast moments later.

St. Louis (30-28) will be the fifth seed in the NL and open a three-game wild-card series at San Diego on Wednesday.

Nationals 15, Mets 5

Juan Soto became the National League's youngest batting champion, Trea Turner hit a grand slam and drove in seven runs, and Washington beat New York.

Soto walked and singled before being lifted for a pinch hitter in the third inning, elevating his average to .351 and sealing the NL lead in the category.

Padres 5, Giants 4

San Francisco had its postseason hopes dashed on the final day of the regular season, finishing 29-31 under first-year manager Gabe Kapler.

The Giants finished tied with Milwaukee for the eighth and final NL playoff spot but lost the tiebreaker.

Diamondbacks 11, Rockies 3

Madison Bumgarner pitched five scoreless innings to win his first game for Arizona in his ninth and final start this season.

Bumgarner (1-4), a former World Series MVP for San Francisco, left the Giants as a free agent for an $85 million, five-year contract to pitch in the desert.

Rangers 8, Astros 4

Houston is going into the playoffs with a losing record after Rougned Odor homered twice for Texas in a win, the third in a row for the Rangers over the defending American League champions.

Houston and Milwaukee—also 29-31— are the first teams to ever qualify for the postseason with losing records.

Athletics 6, Mariners 2

Mark Canha drove in four runs and Oakland came back to beat Seattle in its final tune-up before the postseason.

Oakland's victory, coupled with Minnesota's loss to Cincinnati, gave the AL West champion A's the No. 2 seed in the American League playoffs. They'll be home at the Coliseum for a best-of-three series against the seventh-seeded Chicago White Sox.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 5

Toronto Blue is set to face the Tampa Bay Rays in the first round of the postseason after losing to Baltimore in its regular season finale.

The Orioles denied Toronto (32-28) a chance to finish second in the AL East and instead relegated the Blue Jays to the eighth and final seed in the AL playoffs.

Royals 3, Tigers 1

Brady Singer (4-5) finished his rookie season with a stellar performance, Alex Gordon wrapped up his long Royals career with a fond farewell and Kansas City ended its season with a win over Detroit.

Rays 5, Phillies 0

Rookie pitcher Josh Fleming allowed four hits over six innings and AL East champion Tampa Bay eliminated Philadelphia from the playoff race.

Philadelphia (28-32) needed a win over the Rays and losses by San Francisco and Milwaukee to earn its first playoff berth in nine years.

Reds 5, Twins 3

Tucker Barnhart and Eugenio Suárez had RBI singles a three-run 10th inning, and Cincinnati beat Minnesota in a regular-season finale that determined postseason matchups.

Cincinnati (31-29) became the National League's seventh seed and will play No. 2 Atlanta. Minnesota (36-24) clinched its second straight American League Central title despite the defeat when the Chicago White Sox lost to the Cubs.

Dodgers 5, Angels 0

AJ Pollock homered twice and NL West champion Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep of the Angels.

Pollock's drive gave the Dodgers a major league-leading 118 homers.

Cubs 10, White Sox 8

Reynaldo López (1-3) struggled and the White Sox tumbled out of position for a home playoff series, losing to Kris Bryant and the crosstown Cubs.

The White Sox (35-25) finished the season with seven losses in eight games to go from first in the AL Central to the seventh seed for their first playoff appearance since 2008.

Foles' 3 TDs lift Bears over Falcons

ATLANTA (AP) — The Falcons suffered their second straight fourth-quarter collapse after leading by two touchdowns, this time to backup quarterback Nick Foles and the Chicago Bears, who rallied from a 16-point deficit for a 30-26 win on Sunday that could spell the end for Atlanta coach Dan Quinn.

Foles replaced Mitchell Trubisky and threw three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter for the Bears, who improved to 3-0 for the first time since 2013.

The Falcons (0-3) became the first team in NFL history lose back-to-back games in which it led by 15 or more points in the final period, according to STATS.

A week ago, Atlanta became a national laughingstock after failing to pounce on an onside kick, allowing the Dallas Cowboys to finish off their comeback from a 39-24 deficit to win 40-39 on a field goal as time expired.

Under Quinn, the Falcons also blew a 28-3 lead in the Super Bowl after the 2016 season and lost in overtime to the New England Patriots.

This time, it was Foles who guided the improbable comeback after relieving the erratic Trubisky in the third quarter. The former Super Bowl MVP had two apparent touchdown passes overturned by official reviews—and still managed to pull out the victory.

After the Falcons went three-and-out on their third straight possession, Foles heaved one with a rusher in his face and connected with Anthony Miller for a 28-yard touchdown with 1:53 remaining.

Foles finished 16 of 29 for 188 yards.

Packers 37, Saints 30

Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers sounds increasingly enamored with the scheme and play-calling philosophy of second-year head coach Matt LaFleur.

The Packers are unbeaten and putting up some of the best offensive numbers in the NFL. So why not?

Rodgers passed for 283 yards and three touchdowns, and the Packers scored 10 points in the final nine minutes to pull out a victory over the New Orleans Saints on Sunday night.

"We've gotten in a good flow," Rodgers said.

Bengals 23, Eagles 23

Joe Burrow tossed a pair of touchdown passes to Tee Higgins in regulation and Carson Wentz dove into the end zone for the tying score in the final minute as Cincinnati and Philadelphia played to a tie.

Philadelphia's Jake Elliott lined up for a 59-yard field goal with 19 seconds left in overtime, but a false start on Matt Pryor forced the Eagles to punt it away and play for the tie.

Both teams are 0-2-1.

Browns 34, Washington 20

Baker Mayfield threw two touchdown passes, Nick Chubb ran for two more and Cleveland beat the Washington Football Team to move over .500 for the first time since 2014.

Washington lost rookie defensive end Chase Young to a groin injury.

With their second straight win under first-year coach Kevin Stefanski, the Browns are 2-1 for the first time since 2011. It's also the first time they've had a winning record since Week 14 in 2014.

AP

Chicago Bears quarterback Nick Foles (9) works from the line of scrimmage against the Atlanta Falcons during the second half of an NFL game, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020, in Atlanta.

Buccaneers 28, Broncos 10

Tom Brady threw three touchdown passes and Shaq Barrett celebrated his homecoming with a pair of sacks, one for a safety, in Tampa Bay's 28-10 victory over Denver.

With his first road win for the Bucs (2-1), Brady evened his career record against the Broncos at 9-9 with just his fifth win in a dozen trips to Denver.

Lions 26, Cardinals 23

Matt Prater made a 39-yard field goal as time expired, Matthew Stafford threw two touchdown passes and Detroit beat Arizona to snap an 11-game losing streak dating to last season.

Stafford had a deep completion called back by a holding penalty before he calmly led the Lions downfield, Prater connected on his fourth field goal of the afternoon and the Lions finally got to celebrate a victory.

Panthers 21, Chargers 16

Carolina's defense forced three Los Angeles turnovers, Joey Slye kicked five field goals and the Panthers beat the Chargers, giving coach Matt Rhule his first NFL victory.

The Panthers had not recorded a sack and allowed 65 points in their first two games but looked like a different unit. They sacked Justin Herbert twice and converted three turnovers into 12 points.

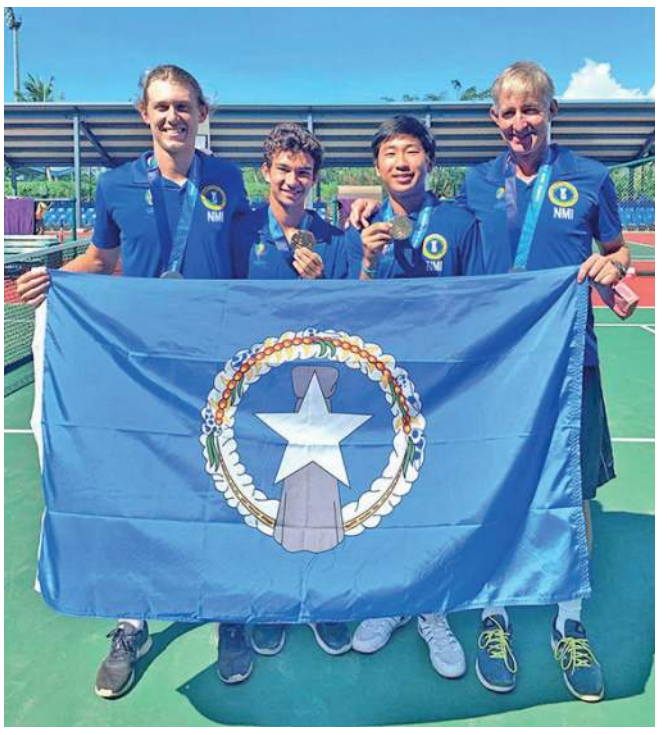
Teddy Bridgewater was 22 of 28 for 235 yards and a touchdown in his first win with Carolina (1-2).

SINCLAIR

From Page 20

in California. The 25-year-old ruled the 32-player field, which included pros from the U.S., China, Brazil, Japan, Ireland, Canada, Dominican Republic, Greece, Mexico, and Sweden, and capped his stellar performance in the ITF World Tour event with a 6-3, 7-6 victory over France's Lucas Poullain in the finals. In 2017, less than a year after turning pro, Sinclair also won a doubles title, as he and Great Britain's Charles Broom stunned No. 1 seed Tom Schonenberg of Germany and Colin Van Beem of the Netherlands in the finals of the Belgium F8 Futures, 4-6, 6-1, 10-5.

Currently, Sinclair is ranked No. 273 in ITF singles and has moved up to as high as No. 47 (June 17, 2019). In the ATP rankings, his highest ranking so far was at No. 410 and he is now at No. 742, as majority of tournaments were either suspended or canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sinclair's last recorded tournament under ITF's sanction was the M15 Porec 2020 Tennis Tournament in Croatia in March with the CNMI player losing to Poland's Pawel Clas in the first round, 2-6, 4-6.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, from left, Colin Sinclair, Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, and coach Jeff Race pose with their gold medals after ruling the team event of the tennis competition in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa.

Before the pandemic hit, the many-time Pacific Oceania Davis Cup player competed in New Caledonia and Australia and in three events in Florida. Sinclair has 235 ITF ranking points. The CNMI player needs to compete in as many pro events as he can and gain ranking points to move up to the ladder and be able to play in Grand Slam events. Players who are in the Top 104 in the world (ATP) can participate in a Grand Slam tournament, while others can also gain entry to the elite competition by winning three rounds in qualifying or getting a wild card.

DAVID

From Page 20

proved to be a wash as the Lakers failed to make the playoffs for the sixth straight year and James sustained the first major injury of his legendary career. The offseason saw LA finally acquire Anthony Davis from the New Orleans Pelicans in exchange for half of the roster and a boatload of picks.

The 2019-2020 season has been a Lakers renaissance with The King and The Brow leading the way. They finished the regular season (COVID-19 seeding games in the bubble included) with the league's second-best record after the Milwaukee Bucks. In the first three rounds of the playoffs, the preeminent LA team (sorry Paper Clips) have amassed an 11-3 record after finishing off the Portland Trail Blazers, Houston Rockets, and Denver Nuggets in similar 3-1 records.

In James and Davis, the Lakers clearly have two best players in the NBA Finals. They're also expertly mentored by coach Frank Vogel, whose calling card has always been defense since his days with the Indiana Pacers. Vogel made a daring move in switching starting center JaVale McGee with former Lakers malcontent Dwight Howard late in the series against Denver. It worked as Howard made life miserable for Nikola Jokic.

The Lakers' bench is also pretty solid with Rajon Rondo dialing his play up a notch in the playoffs (he's not called Playoff Rondo for nothing) and Kyle Kuzma, Markieff Morris, and of course fan favorite Alex Caruso back-stopping the superstars.

The Heat, meanwhile, is a rag-team team with only one verifiable superstar in Jimmy Butler. Before joining the Heat via sign and trade, Jimmy Buckets wore out his welcome in Chicago, Minneapolis, and Philadelphia. It's actually nothing short of a miracle that coach Erik Spoelstra's team advanced to the NBA Finals. Just look at its lineup, the highest drafted player in the roster is 36-year-old Andre Iguodala (9th overall by the Philadelphia 76ers in 2004). They also start Duncan Robinson, a former Division 3 player. Prior to this season, Bam Adebayo also had to share the center position with 7'2" Hassan Whiteside.

Miami were also so down on veteran Goran Dragic's future with the team that Pat Riley actually traded him to the Dallas Mavericks to clear up cap space to sign Butler in the offseason. Luckily, for The Dragon, Mavericks owner Mark Cuban rescinded the trade, saying they thought they were getting Derrick Jones Jr. And when the season started, Dragic lost his starting job to undrafted rookie Kendrick Nunn.

They finished with the fifth seed in the weaker Eastern Conference and then rode a hot streak into the playoffs, sweeping the Pacers in the first round before catching a break when Giannis Antetokounmpo got injured in the second round. With the back-to-back MVP sidelined, the Heat advanced to the Eastern Conference Finals against the talented but young Boston Celtics. They dispatched Danny Ainge's team in six games, which could've been closer if not for a few late-game collapses by the Celts.

So, it's a classic David vs. Goliath pairing in the NBA Finals. The Lakers have the history, the pedigree, and the marquee players to run over the Heat to take home the 2020 NBA championship. Miami, for all its shortcomings, have pure grit on their side. I always side with the underdogs and I won't change even for Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, and Kobe's old team.

Back to the Finals: Heat oust Celtics

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Coco wins debut; Wawrinka routs Murray

PAGE 18

Sinclair stays in pro circuit

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Games multiple gold medalist Colin Sinclair will be able to continue competing in professional tournaments and stay on course for his bid to join a Grand Slam event after getting assistance from the International Tennis Federation.

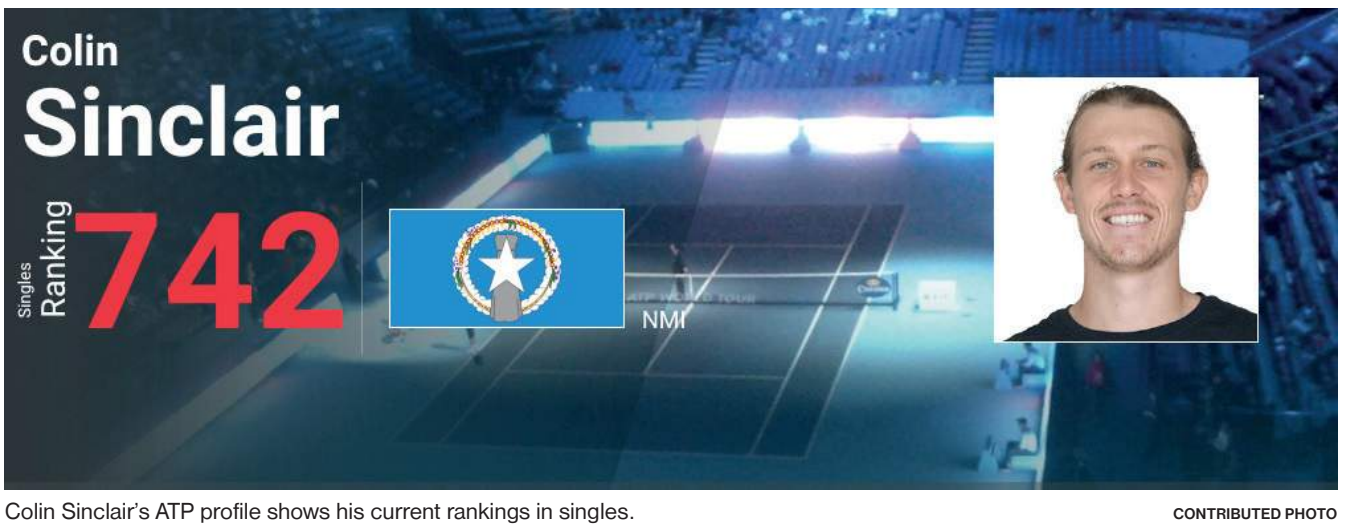
Sinclair, who represented the CNMI in the 2019 Pacific Games and won three gold medals and a silver, was one of the 29 players around the world that have received 2020 International Player Grand Slam Grants from the Grand Slam Development Fund. The grant, according to ITF and Oceania Tennis Federation, provides $650,000 annual funding to selected players and is used for competition-related costs. The financial assistance is given as ITF aims to develop professional tennis players and help them compete in Grand Slam tournaments.

Each selected player will get $25,000 travel grants, while Sinclair will receive additional $12,500 for topping the rankings in the region (Pacific Oceania). The CNMI bet is one of the only six players to gain extra travel grants. The five others were Egypt's Maiar Sherif Ahmed Abdulaziz, Dominican Republic's Roberto Cid Subervi, New Zealand's Paige Hourigan, Tunisia's Skander Mansouri, and Mexico's Renata Zarazua.

Sinclair received both grants in 2019, which saw him not only dominating the Pacific Games, but also getting his first pro singles title after prevailing in the $15,000 Claremont Club Pro Classic

See SINCLAIR on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2019 file photo, the CNMI's Colin Sinclair returns to Kiribati's Tebatibunga Tito during their singles game in the XVI Pacific Games at the Apia Park Tennis Courts in Samoa.



Colin Sinclair's ATP profile shows his current rankings in singles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

David vs Goliath

MARKSMAN
By MARK RABAGO
Associate Editor

Growing up Mark wanted to play pro basketball. When his talent and height didn't measure up, he opted for a career in journalism instead.

Commissioner Adam Silver might as well hand the Larry O'Brien trophy to the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Purple and Gold are the prohibitive favorites to win it all when their best-of-seven NBA Finals series against the Miami Heat commence on Thursday in the Orlando bubble.

The Lakers are seeking their 17th NBA championship to tie their rivals the Boston Celtics for the most 'ships in the Association. Another reason fueling their quest for the 2020 NBA championship is to win one for the late NBA great Kobe Bryant who tragically died last Jan. 26 in a helicopter crash.

As if that's not enough motivation, Lakers superstar LeBron James is also seeking to become the first player in NBA history to win championships while leading three different teams. Of course, The King won his first two championships with Miami during the Big 3 era with BFF Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh in 2012 and 2013.

He then infamously left South Beach (Wade was slipping and the supporting crew were long in the tooth) and returned to Cleveland after the Heat lost in the 2014 NBA Finals against the San Antonio Spurs. He finally gave long-suffering Cavaliers fans a championship when he rallied their version of the Big 3 (James, Kyrie Irving, and Kevin Love) from a 3-1 deficit against the Golden State Warriors in the 2016 NBA Finals.

After losing to a Kevin Durant souped-up Warriors team in 2017 and 2018, LeBron again packed up his bags this time for Tinseltown. His first year in the West Coast

See DAVID on Page 19

AP
In this Nov. 8, 2019 file photo, Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler (22) is blocked by Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis (3), while LeBron James, left, and Alex Caruso look on during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles.